

Tories give resounding verdict against change in voting system

Conservatives at the Blackpool conference yesterday resoundingly rejected party support for any form of proportional representation in parliamentary elections. Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet are willing to cooperate with the Government in setting up a Speaker's Conference on the issue but, our Political Editor writes, their minds are firmly set against such electoral changes.

Mr Maude condemns lack of faith

By David Wood
Political Editor
Blackpool

The Conservative Party rank and file in Blackpool yesterday gave an overwhelming verdict against party support for any form of proportional representation in parliamentary elections. Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet are willing to cooperate with the Government in setting up a Speaker's Conference on the issue but, our Political Editor writes, their minds are firmly set against such electoral changes.

Mr Angus Maude, deputy party chairman, did not say outright that any known system of PR would have the inevitable effect of allowing the Liberals to benefit from the election. He said, however, that the Conservatives and Labour supporters and therefore build up a disproportionately strong representation in the Commons, but that is what Conservative leaders believe would happen. They also particularly dislike any form of PR that would follow the West German system by including a party list of candidates.

"Even in my role as deputy chairman of the Conservative Party," Mr Maude said, "I am not prepared to go for any system that puts the choice of candidates more closely under the control of the central party machines in London." And if a

complete list system was rejected, "it is certain that you cannot get true proportionality with less than five-member constituencies."

To advocates of the alternative vote system, Mr Maude replied by quoting Sir Winston Churchill: "The worst of all possible plans, in which the decision is to be determined by the most worthless votes given to the most worthless candidates."

Among senior members of the Conservative Party an active campaign has been running for adoption of a system of PR, as a means of providing the conditions in which the Conservative Party, on the retreat, could hope to win power at Westminster, and of creating a coalition of anti-socialist parties in Parliament.

Mr Maude said the coalitionists simply lacked confidence in the ability of the Conservative Party to win power, or in its ability to govern effectively if it did. For him the choice was clear. Conservatives untrammelled by the compromises of the left-centre could halt the slide of the economy and restore faith in Parliament without being stamped into electoral chaos.

There was never any doubt during the debate that Mr Maude would carry the day for the platform. The Conservative Party would have to lose one more general election before it begins to consider entering into partnership with third parties because it doubts its ability to win power on its own. This conference, he said, was not a mood, as Sir Geoffrey Howe showed, to

Mrs Castle offers doctors unconditional talks on pay beds

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that she had written to the British Medical Association, offering doctors unrestricted discussions about her proposals to separate public from private medicine. Speaking at a press conference she urged the profession to take the advice of the British Medical Association and "keep its cool".

She said she was not complacent about the migration of doctors, but there had been exaggerations in recent speculation and figures quoted. She would be pleased to discuss the matter with the profession.

Accurate information about emigration was not available until about two years after the doctor had left the country. However, she had commissioned a study, the preliminary findings of which showed that in the year ended September 30, this year, 64 consultants and 42 junior registrars of the 11,300 in the health service had resigned with the intention of emigrating. Not all were born in Britain.

Mr Derek Stevenson, secretary of the BMA, said last night that the tone of the letter the association had received from Mrs Castle suggested she was impressed by the weight of the profession's case and the solidarity of its views. But the profession would be concerned if she did not recognize the irreparable damage that would be done by the phasing-out of private beds in health service hospitals.

However, the absence of pre-conditions to the discussions made it possible for the profession to consider a favourable reply to the invitation to talk and an answer would be sent after discussions with the many interested parties.

At her press conference Mrs Castle gave a conciliatory reply to the question of the health service being starved of money and had requested an injection of £500m.

Despite Mrs Castle's conciliatory announcement, hospital doctors are to cut services in protest against their new contract (Report, page 2).

Earlier, at a press conference at the Royal College of Surgeons, Sir Rodney Smith, president, said that something had gone wrong with the health service. It did not belong to the Department of Health and Social Security, or to doctors, and certainly not to trade unions.

"It belongs to the patients and the patients are not having enough say," he said.

He urged the Prime Minister to intervene directly. He should tell the profession there was no intention to interfere with its independence.

The college was debarred from saying anything on behalf of doctors, but it could speak about maintaining standards. The point of no return had been reached on standards. Morale in the service was as low as it could be and there had been a collapse of confidence.

"If you seek to compel doctors to practise in circumstances they regard as unfavourable, whatever the merits of the system you wish to impose upon them, you are asking doctors to practise privately and damage recruitment."

Apart from emigration, there had never been such a shortage of young British graduates wishing to go into surgery. Such a situation meant a slide in standards with people dying from unsuccessful operations.

"We are not running out of time," we have run out of time," he said.

Labour policy 'disruptive': Mr Norman Fowler, Conservative frontbench spokesman on health, said at Blackpool yesterday that Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, had to be told that the National Health Service, which she had said was one of the nation's most precious assets, was being disrupted by her own policies (our Political Staff writes).

Dr Gerard Vaughan, another Opposition frontbench spokesman, said: "We are losing the seed corn, a whole generation. I have been at meetings right across the country and I am appalled by the drop in morale and disillusion among young consultants. There is no doctor's dilemma; if they see they have no future, they cannot do a proper job for their patients they will go."

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Five shot dead in Barcelona gun battle

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Oct 8

Spanish political violence grew today with five people shot dead in Barcelona and an unconfirmed report of three others killed across the French border in St Jean-de-Luz.

The dead in Barcelona were three members of a family caught in crossfire between police and terrorists and two policemen mistakenly shot by other policemen. Two other people were wounded.

Eight policemen have been killed in the past week in political incidents. Four civilians have also been killed.

A brief police statement on the Barcelona fighting told of a tragic confusion. It said the trouble began when two patrols were sent from the Verneda barracks of the security police to investigate what sounded like gunfire in a street near by. After the patrols struck between the barracks and the attackers. A machinegun was poked out of one of its windows and fired at the outside of the barracks.

The guard on duty returned the fire with their sub-machine-guns, just as another car, apparently not involved in the struggle, crossed between the barracks and the attackers. The car was riddled with bullets from both sides, and three of its four occupants died instantly. They were a man and his wife, aged 50 and 45 respectively, and the 22-year-old son. They had just come from a friend's funeral. A passenger in their car survived, but was seriously injured.

The killings did not end there. According to the police, one of the patrols apparently hearing the exchange of shots hurried back to the barracks. In the darkness the police men opened fire on them by mistake, killing two and wounding another.

The shooting of three Basque political refugees in St Jean-de-Luz was reported in Madrid by the news agency Pyresa. The report could not be immediately confirmed. According to Pyresa, pro-Franco activists

£170,000 payoff proposed for company chief

Mr J. Anson Payne, chairman of FMC Ltd, the meat wholesaling firm, is to receive £170,000 in compensation for losing the office if sweeping changes demanded by the National Farmers' Union's Development Trust, which holds over 40 per cent of the shares, are carried at the annual general meeting. A further £35,000 is to be paid into FMC's pension scheme, to provide Mr Payne, aged 58, with retirement benefits. The terms of the contract which resulted in Mr Payne's compensation were attacked last night by NFU leaders as showing something of the "ugly face of capitalism."

Kidnap cash puzzle

Attempts to make contact with the people who kidnapped Dr Tiede Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, in Limerick in the Republic of Ireland, continued without success yesterday. The police believe that the suspected leader of the kidnappers may possess part of the proceeds from a bank robbery and that that may explain the lack of response to the Dutch company's ransom offers.

Communists dissent

The Portuguese Communist Party, which is taking part in the Government, expressed its support yesterday for demonstrations by military and civilian dissidents. The masses, it said, had begun a "counter-offensive" against the Government's reactionary tendencies. Admiral de Azevedo, the Prime Minister, called Dr Cunhal, the communist leader for talks.

On other pages

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Letters: on Conservative policy from Mr J. Bruce-Cary and others; on the political system from Professor Richard Rose
Leading articles: Electoral reform; Emigration of doctors; Greece
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Michael Raudiff on 'It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow' (ATV); Irving Wardle on Othello (Young Vic); Beaux Arts review (Alan Blyth) and concert (Paul Griffiths); other concert notices by Joan Chissell and Alan Blyth.

Refugees seize hostages in United Nations office

Chilean refugees protesting about poor living conditions seized 13 United Nations office in Buenos Aires yesterday, and threatened to harm them if the security forces surrounding the building used violence. A spokesman for the refugees said they wanted to be flown to any democratic country that would receive them. The action was directed against United Nations neglect, not against the Argentine Government.

The Thatcher example

Miss Flora Macdonald, a Canadian MP, has declared herself a candidate for the leadership of the opposition Progressive Conservative Party. She said yesterday she had been encouraged by the example of Mrs Thatcher. She would not be a "woman leader" but a "leader who was a woman."

Parental control: New clauses to the Children Bill to enable voluntary organizations to assume parental control over children in their care were announced yesterday by Dr Owen, Minister of Health.

Car boost: Ford of Britain is adding new standard equipment to Cortinas, Capris and Grandas as part of a value-for-money campaign against imported cars.

Economic cooperation: Lord Watkinson, deputy president of the Confederation of British Industry, called yesterday for the political parties to cooperate in measures to end the economic recession.

Timor: Leftwing Fretilin Party leaders accuse Indonesian forces of a full-scale attack on a border town.



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heath leaving the Blackpool conference platform yesterday.

Efforts to save New York 'undermined by Mr Ford'

From Frank Vogel
US Economics Correspondent
New York, Oct 8

New York City's financial crisis is now moving swiftly to a climax. Mr Felix Rohatyn, chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, bluntly told bankers here that "the likes are crumbling. . . I just hope we can keep it together a December 1, but it is by no means a sure thing."

Mr Hugh Carey, the Governor of New York State, told a meeting of the American Bankers' Association that the only practical way to save New York City from defaulting on its Federal payments is through a Federal government guarantee of at least \$3,000m to \$5,000m worth of special notes and bonds.

The Government aid must be decided upon next month. He admitted that a series of court cases here are threatening now to jeopardize New York's \$2,300m (nearly 1.50m) aid plan for the city.

Mr Carey added that "as a state we have done all we can do to help the city. . . Our credit is on the line. It is beyond the capacity of the state to save New York City."

Mr Elmore Patterson, the head of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, noted that it is vital that the city and the state should have access to the country's resources. All the top officials and businessmen most intimately involved in the New York City rescue operation now limit that tapping these resources is impossible without Federal aid.

Mr Carey and Mr Rohatyn did openly that they had come to the bankers to ask their support, but the governor admitted at his efforts to boost confidence in what is being done to save New York are continually undermined by President Ford.

The President said again yesterday that he is not contemplating any form of Federal aid to the city. Mr Henry Resnik, chairman of the banking committee in the House of Repre-

20 people killed and 100 injured as fifth ceasefire is broken in Beirut

Beirut, Oct 8.—At least 20 people were killed and 100 were wounded in fighting in Beirut and its suburbs today, and yet another ceasefire was called to try to stem the violence.

But 90 minutes after the agreed 3 pm ceasefire deadline, there was still firing in the city centre and suburbs, although it was quieter than earlier in the day.

Heavy shooting and explosions had erupted in and around the battle-torn Lebanese capital shortly before midnight and continued throughout the morning. In the worst incident, a mortar bomb exploded outside a bakery in west Beirut, killing 14 people and wounding more than 60.

Four mortar bombs went off in a street leading from the main square shortly after dawn, wounding two people. Other explosions all over the city drove people to basements.

The city governor had imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew throughout the capital to protect life and property. Then Lebanese security forces and Palestinian commandos agreed on a new ceasefire, the sixth to be pledged during the past three weeks of fighting.

The first four accords collapsed almost as soon as they were promised, and the fifth, agreed last Friday, held only a few hours before a Muslim holiday until last night's outbreak.

The Higher Lebanese-Palestinian Coordinating Committee, which directs joint peace-keeping operations, announced that the left and right-wing groups involved in the fighting had

agreed to a 3 pm ceasefire today.

But after this deadline, shooting and explosions still shook the city centre and the suburbs.

The Omar mosque in the city centre caught fire after a gun-battle.

In north Lebanon, an Army officer and three soldiers were killed in a clash with armed men in the mainly Muslim port of Tripoli.

Mr Karami, the Prime Minister, will go to Damascus tomorrow for urgent talks with President Assad of Syria and from Yassin Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, it was announced today.

In another move, Kuwait called for a special meeting of the Arab League to consider the situation in Lebanon.—Reuters and UPI.

Photograph, page 8

TUC to press Mr Wilson for import controls

By Paul Roudledge
Labour Editor

TUC leaders yesterday decided to make their fight for import controls to the Prime Minister before the November 5 session of the National Economic Development Council called at Chequers to discuss industrial strategy.

The TUC Economic Committee that made the decision after endorsing the arguments in an office policy paper which suggested restrictions on the importing of cars, electrical components, colour television tubes, textiles, clothing and footwear to alleviate growing unemployment in those industries.

The document, *Imports and Jobs*, has been sent to Mr Wilson with a request for an early meeting, which the TUC hopes will take place before the NEDC talks. The unions will

restate the case for import quotas on manufactured and semi-manufactured goods until the economy responds to improvements in world trade.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the unions' demands must not be confused with protectionism. Import controls were needed to ensure the viability of certain industries in the 1980s and beyond.

The TUC will also ask the Government to use its power as a major purchaser of goods and a supplier of credit to influence firms to buy British rather than foreign if the price difference is only marginal.

Mr Murray dismissed the threat of economic retaliation, saying that it was in the self-interest of the United Kingdom's trading partners to allow Britain to recover prosperity through the temporary use of import quotas.

Small housing schemes to escape Land Bill

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced big concessions to protect the private house-owner and the small-scale builder from the effects of the Community Land Bill legislation.

The concessions, foreshadowed in a policy statement by the Government two weeks ago, mean that all development of less than 10,000 sq ft will be exempted from the normal scope of the community land scheme. That will allow housing developments of up to 10 or 12 houses or about 20 flats to go ahead without public acquisition of land. For industrial buildings the limit will be 15,000 sq ft.

The three broad types of development to be included in the regulations are development on land owned or with

The Ford Short Story Competition.



"Follow that Ford" and win this motor caravan.

FIRST PRIZE:
A new Canterbury Campabus Caravan. Based on the Ford Transit, the Campabus is doubly useful. A comfortable car during the week, and a roomy caravan for weekends.

CONSOLATION PRIZES:
10 sets of matching luggage and 5 Times Comprehensive Atlases of the World.

In an imaginative stroke, Ford's artist has designed a four-page commercial vehicle advertisement in the form of a 'townscape'. In turn, Times readers are invited to use their imaginations to write a short story about the town depicted.

Further details of the competition are on page 4.

No car manufacturer has ever offered the motorist cover like this.

1. Free 24 hour on-the-spot roadside assistance.

If your car breaks down on the road anywhere in the UK, you'll get the full AA Road Service backed up by their 2,500 strong team of radio patrols.

2. Free get-you-there Relay recovery service.

If your vehicle breaks down on the road and cannot be repaired within reasonable time, you, your car and your passengers will be transported free of charge by AA Relay to your destination. (This service operates in the UK mainland).

3. No limit to mileage for first-year warranty.

No matter how many miles you do, your free parts and labour warranty will cover you for a full year, and it can be extended for a second year at low cost. (The 'warranty' is subject to the terms of the Owners Service Statement.)

4. A new 69 point check-out service, free before any car goes on the road.

A thorough new check-out service to help iron out any teething problems.

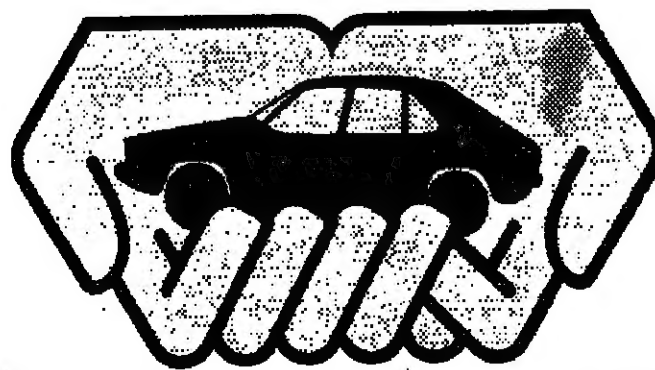
This is the after-sales service that Leyland Cars are offering on every single car delivered to the customer after October 9th 1975.

It's called Supercover.

It's the most comprehensive service ever offered by any car manufacturer and gives you complete cover for one year no matter how many miles you do. Supercover is a permanent charter for the British motorist. It is a testimonial of the faith that Leyland Cars have in their products.

It gives the motorist one more reason for choosing from the superb Leyland range of cars (Austin, Daimler, Jaguar, MG, Mini, Morris, Princess, Rover, Triumph).

New from Leyland Cars 



SUPERCOVER

Even if you never need it, it's good to know you've got it.

HOME NEWS

Move for child-care groups to be given parental rights

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Dr Owen, Minister of Health, yesterday tabled four new clauses to the Children Bill to give voluntary organizations the power to assume parental rights over children in their care. The clauses, which will be considered at the report stage of the Bill soon after Parliament resumes, fulfil a pledge he made in the committee stage.

Originally the Bill would have enabled only local authorities to assume parental rights. But the voluntary groups argue that they often have more experience in child care than local authorities because of the lack of specialization within social service departments after their reorganization.

Dr Owen, announcing the clauses at the annual meeting of Dr Barnardo's Homes, said unforeseen legal difficulties had arisen but he believed they would head his undertaking.

The first clause gives local authorities power to pass a resolution transferring parental rights and duties for a child in care to the voluntary organization caring for it, without the local authority first having to receive the child into care itself. The scope of the clause will be limited to voluntary organizations that are incorporated bodies and to children living in voluntary homes or with foster-parents.

The remaining clauses enable a local authority to resume parental rights where it is felt

that it is no longer in the child's interests to allow a voluntary organization to continue. They also give natural parents the same rights of appeal as provided when a local authority assumes parental rights.

The clauses will therefore give voluntary child care organizations the powers they want, while embodying the safeguard that the local authorities remain publicly accountable over children in care.

Dr Owen told the Barnardo meeting that he believed that expertise in child care had been dissipated after the reorganization of social service departments. The general anxiety about it was wholly justified and there was cause for concern about the child-care system in Britain.

It had been a mistake, he said, to allow the commitment to generic training for social workers, which was right and inevitable, to lead on to generic practice. There would always be people who were good at a particular speciality and they should be allowed to stay in it.

But he added that the criticisms of social workers were wholly misguided. Reorganization had succeeded, and despite the great administrative upheavals of local government and National Health Service reorganization which came afterwards they had kept the service going. The general anxiety about it was wholly justified and there was cause for concern about the child-care system in Britain.

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Gas for city transport

Peterborough City Council is converting its fleet of 40 public service vehicles to run on liquid gas instead of petrol. They say it will save up to 40 per cent in fuel bills.

Swimmer's body found

The body of a man who began a swim to raise money for a charity, Mr Fred Myers, aged 28, was washed ashore at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, yesterday.

Women's aid centre faces council pressure

By Martin Huckerby
Hounslow council in London, appears to be determined to force the pioneering Chiswick Women's Aid Centre to cut by two thirds the number of people it helps, despite pleas that that would leave desperate women with nowhere to go.

Mrs Erin Pizzey, founder of the centre, said yesterday that she was willing to go to jail rather than comply with a demand that would make the centre refuse sanctuary to battered wives and their children.

The final decision to take legal action to force the centre to obey health and safety regulations will be made at the full council meeting in two weeks, but the council appears certain to press ahead with the recommendation of its finance and general purposes committee.

The committee has already decided to cut off any further grant to the centre, which was receiving £10,000 a year under the urban aid programme. A spokesman said the committee thought it was wrong for public money to be spent on an organization that was quite blatantly defying the regulations.

The council believed the Chiswick centre could not provide facilities for people from all over the country and that all local councils should provide such refuges.

The spokesman pointed out that the council's action would not force the centre to eject families but would only prevent it from taking in further people until the present total of more than a hundred women and children had been reduced to below the permitted maximum of 36.



Lord and Lady Hailsham of St Marylebone and Lord Butler of Saffron Walden (right) at a London luncheon yesterday to mark the publication of Lord Hailsham's autobiography.

Father told to send son to all-in school

From Our Correspondent

Luton Bedfordshire County Council issued an attendance order yesterday against Mr Kenneth Sibley and warned him that he may be prosecuted if his son, Duncan, aged 11, does not go to school.

Mr Sibley, aged 49, of Stephens Close, Luton, an aircraft engineer, spent six days in prison after refusing to pay a fine for not sending his daughters to school in 1970.

That dispute ended when a businessman paid for the girls, Vanessa, now aged 17, and Melanie, now aged 16, to attend a private school in Somerset. But Mr Sibley's view is that it is not a normal activity to tell jokes before television cameras.

Mr Sibley says comprehensive education is not good enough for his children and the council should pay for them to go to a grammar school. Luton is entirely comprehensive.

He said yesterday he had not received the order. He commented: "Comprehensive schools are inferior and I have the right to choose grammar schools if I wish. It is the fault of the education committee for abolishing grammar school education."

Threat of television strike by Equity

Equity the actors' union, threatened yesterday to call a strike unless London Weekend Television withdraws a Saturday night comedy programme called *A Joker's A Joker*, which shows members of the public telling jokes.

The programme, which started last month, visits a different part of the country each week. But Mr Peter Plouviez, general secretary of Equity, said that actors and actresses working for London Weekend would be called on to strike unless there was an assurance that the show would be dropped.

Mr Plouviez said London Weekend maintained that it had not broken its agreement with the union "because the telling of jokes is a normal human activity not reserved exclusively for professional performers". But Equity's view is that it is not a normal activity to tell jokes before television cameras.

Mr Plouviez told Mr John Freeman, chairman of London Weekend, that *A Joker's A Joker* was causing resentment among professional performers. He and leading union members were prepared to take part in negotiations with the company in the next few days, but a dispute had been registered with the commercial television companies.

Protests had been received from many Equity members about the programme, which Mr Plouviez described as "a cheap and inferior substitute for professional light entertainment programmes". Much of the material had been written by and for professional comedians.

Bomb trial witness alleges threats

Frank Johnson, a student teacher alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that the police threatened to throw him off a roof when he tried to provide an alibi for a girl accused of murder after the Guildford public house bombing.

Mr Johnson was giving evidence on behalf of Carol Richardson, aged 17, one of four defendants on trial.

Mr Johnson, who admitted two convictions of possessing LSD, said he made a statement saying he discussed alibi evidence with another of Miss Richardson's friends, Lisa Astin, before going to the police.

That statement "was a lot of lies", Mr Johnson told the court. He made it because of the alleged threats to throw him off the roof and to set fire to his mother in her wheelchair and after he had been his during interrogation.

He had taken the two girls to a dance at the Polytechnic of the South Bank in London on October 5, the night that two bombs exploded in Guildford, killing five people.

When he heard that Miss Richardson had been arrested he went to the police. "I did not think Carol would be involved in anything like that", he added.

"I checked with the pop group and discovered that one of their concerts was on October 5. This was the concert to which I had taken Carol and Lisa Astin." He got in touch with the police at Newcastle, who took details, and was later interviewed by Special Branch officers.

Mr Johnson told Sir Michael Havers, QC for the Crown, that he sympathized, mostly with IRA views, but not their means. He said of alleged police threats: "One officer said 'Would you like to see your mother go up in flames in her wheelchair?'"

The trial continues today.

"I did not complain to anyone. I did not see any point in it. I was too frightened. I just signed the statement admitting that I had discussed the evidence with Lisa."

He denied putting back the time at which he met Carol Richardson on October 5 so as to provide her with an alibi.

Sir Michael asked: "Did you in fact wait outside the South Bank Polytechnic with Lisa Astin until 3 p.m. getting colder and colder, until Carol arrived?" Mr Johnson replied: "No."

Mr Eric Myers, QC, for the defence of Miss Richardson, asked Mr Johnson: "Prior to the Guildford bombing, were you planning to be a party to any alibi?"

Mr Johnson replied: "No. I did not know what was going to happen in Guildford."

Did you know there was to be a bombing in Guildford?—No.

Mr Johnson denied that Carol Richardson had told him she wanted to set up an alibi for the night of October 5 as "she was going bombing". He also denied that he knew the bombs in the Guildford public houses were to be planted.

Mr Justice Donaldson questioned Mr Johnson about allegations he had made earlier against the police and Detective Chief Inspector Alan Longhurst.

The judge said: "You are saying you never complained because you regarded it as nothing more than the police doing their duty. I suggest when you leave this court you do complain and the police are then entitled to investigate. Do you want them investigated?"

Mr Johnson replied: "No, I prefer to completely forget about it."

Company funds milked to pay personal debts, QC says

From Our Correspondent

Birmingham Directors of a Northampton electrical company had "milked" the company's funds to discharge the personal debts of two of them, a jury at Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Philip Otton, QC, for the prosecution, who completed his opening speech on the third day of the trial of six directors on fraud charges, said that two of the directors, the former leader of Northampton council, Ronald Dilleigh, and T. Dan Smith, a businessman, had guaranteed the debts of Vinleigh Public Relations Ltd.

He said Vinleigh became insolvent, and its debts were paid out of the account of Dilon Electrical Ltd, of Northampton. A total of £10,571 had been paid by Dilon Electrical to Vinleigh.

He added: "The effects of their conduct is to deprive the creditors of Dilon Electrical of £10,000 to discharge the personal liabilities of Mr Smith and Dilleigh."

The six defendants are Ronald Dilleigh, aged 49, of Graspin Lane, Northampton; Carol Trusler, aged 55, a Northamptonshire county councillor, of Kingsley Road, Northampton; Neil Hodson, aged 33, of Shearwood Avenue, Northampton; Thomas Daniel Smith, aged 60; David Powell, aged 30, of Warwick Road, Hantslope, Buckinghamshire; and Thomas Ellison, aged 39, of Longdon Street, Warwick, Warwickshire.

All have pleaded not guilty.

to carrying on the business of Dilon Electrical Ltd with intent to defraud its creditors between September, 1971, and March, 1973.

Mr Dilleigh has also denied six charges of theft from the company. Carol Trusler, four and Mr Hodson and Mr Smith one each. Mr Dilleigh and Carol Trusler have pleaded guilty to two charges of publishing false accounts and one of making a fraudulent transfer, and Mr Hodson and Mr Smith have each denied one charge of publishing a false account.

Mr Otton said that several Vinleigh accounts were settled by Dilon, including the Department of Health and Social Security, the Post Office, tax liabilities, solicitors and accountants, a telephone answering service, and a £7 parking fine for one of the directors.

In the year to September, 1971, Counsel continued, Dilon had paid to Vinleigh £3,618, and to cover up those payments the amount of £3,618 was shown in the accounts as "advertising and public relations". In fact there had been no advertising or public relations work.

During the last year of the company's life its trade debts rose by £45,000, and an analysis of purchases and payments during the year showed "recklessness of the highest degree". The company had been ordering more goods when it could not even pay past debts.

The hearing, which is expected to last for eight weeks, continues today.

Deception by former lord mayor alleged

From Our Correspondent

Stoke-on-Trent A former lord mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, who was alleged to have deceived the city council to obtain £413.75 in allowances, appeared at Stafford Crown Court yesterday.

Arthur Cotton, aged 53, manager of the Green Star public house, Esperanto Way, Smallthorne, Stoke-on-Trent, who is now deputy Lord Mayor of Stoke, denied the charge of obtaining £180 by deception in February, 1972, by pretending that he suffered financial loss by reason of attendance at approved council duties between March, 1970, and December, 1971.

He also denies a charge of dishonestly obtaining £233.75 from Stoke-on-Trent council with the intention of permanently depriving the council by pretending that he suffered financial loss between May, 1973, and March, 1974, during which time he was lord mayor.

Mr Charles McCullough, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Cotton made the claims to make up for money he paid to his wife and daughter who looked after his public house while he was on council duty.

Counsel said Mr Cotton made the first claim in February, 1972, when he was told that if he incurred a loss by attending meetings he was entitled to compensation. He backdated his claim to March, 1970, and was paid £180.

Mr McCullough said that during that time the owners of the public house, Bass Worthington, paid Mrs Cotton £4 to £5 a week for her help while Mr Cotton was away.

Mr Cotton claimed £733.75 between May, 1973, and March, 1974, during which time he was lord mayor. Mr McCullough continued: "At that time Mr Cotton was on paid leave of absence. Bass Worthington were not withholding a penny from Mr Cotton."

"There was no check to see whether a man had in fact lost earnings, nor any check to see if they had suffered additional expenses by attending council duties. The council officials had to rely on members' honesty and integrity."

The trial continues today.

Polaris submarine ready for test-firing in US

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

HMS Revenge, the Polaris submarine, will leave for the United States this month to test fire her missiles after completing a major refit in the navy dockyard at Rosyth, in Scotland.

She is the last of the four submarines that constitute Britain's strategic deterrent to undergo a refit. A test-firing of the Polaris missile with a dummy warhead is a routine procedure before each return to operational duties.

The work at Rosyth was completed in April. Since then the Revenge has been undergoing a series of trials in preparation for the final four weeks "shakedown" for her two crews. She will now be based at Cape Canaveral for a month.

Each Polaris boat has two alternating crews one called the "port" crew and the other the "starboard" crew. The "starboard" crew will be in charge for the first half of the trial, and then the "port" crew will take over. The test firings will be carried out on the United States' Eastern Test Range.

German airborne troops to 'invade' Britain

By Our Defence Correspondent

German paratroops will "invade" Britain next week-end as part of a joint airborne exercise.

About 150 men of a regular Fallschirmjäger battalion will jump with about 1,500 British Territorials from Luftwaffe and RAF aircraft over Salisbury Plain.

The dropping zones will be kept secret from other troops, who will oppose them. The British soldiers come from the 4th and 10th Volunteer Battalions of The Parachute Regiment and from the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Transport and other supporting units of the 44th Parachute Brigade of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve.

The exercise will be watched by General Sir Roland Gibbs, Commander-in-Chief of United Kingdom Land Forces.

Police authority chairman on fraud charges

From Our Correspondent

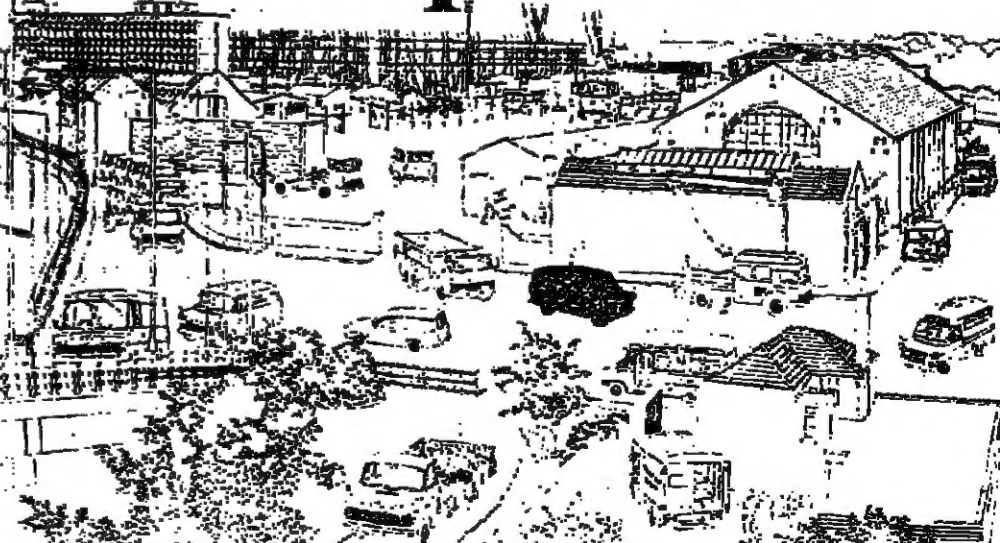
Northampton Francis Grundy, aged 49, chairman of the Northamptonshire police authority, was remanded on bail of £500 until December 10 by magistrates at Northampton yesterday on fraud charges.

Mr Grundy, a bus inspector and county councillor, of Rectory Farm, Sywell, is accused of falsifying an application for an attendance allowance and an application for a travel and subsistence allowance and with attempting to obtain £13.83 by deception from Northamptonshire County Council.

Cornish art theft

Paintings, drawings and jewellery were stolen from an isolated cottage at Manaccan, Cornwall, belonging to a Londoner, Mrs Patricia Clogg.

The Ford Short Story Competition.



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All entrants have complete freedom to choose what they will from the illustration to support their story.

The first prize will be awarded to the entry which, in the opinion of the judges, is considered to be the best story. How to enter: Typed entries only please, to be sent to The Ford "Follow that Ford" Short Story Competition, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC2A 8EZ.

The judges: The judges will be Brian MacArthur, Editor of the Times Educational Supplement, Alex P. Smith of Ford Motor Company and Don Michel of J. Walter Thompson.

Important news for the world of international finance

Germany has eight stock exchanges. Each of these selects newspapers to which it gives official recognition for the obligatory publication of the financial results of public companies. There are 28 such newspapers in Germany. DIE WELT was hitherto recognised by the stock exchanges of Hamburg and Düsseldorf.

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Hamburg - Germany's largest ocean port and Europe's most prosperous city

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مركز الصحافة

HOME NEWS

Ford chases sales with extra items in cars

By Peter Wymark

Motoring Correspondent

Ford of Britain is adding £14m worth of equipment to its Cortina, Capri and Granada ranges, as part of a value-for-money campaign designed to regain ground from foreign manufacturers. Most of the extra items will not raise prices.

The basic Cortina has 289 of additional features, including cloth seats, carpeting, heated rear window, servo brakes and hazard warning lights. There will be new Capri GT models with £180 of extra equipment, and a Granada S, replacing the Consul GT, with an added value of £245.

According to Ford market research, more than 85 per cent of potential new car buyers prefer more standard equipment to a price cut. Ford hopes to pay for the improved specifications through increased sales and neither its nor its dealers will be taking a lower profit.

The Capri range has been extended downwards with a new base 1300 car, which, at £1,717, will cost £116 less than the previous cheapest Capri. The name Consul has been dropped from the large saloons, and the whole range will be known as Granadas. As well as being specified on the cars have a revised instrument layout, improved suspension, and a new driving position.

Ford is following Chrysler UK and British Leyland in offering an unlimited mileage warranty on new cars for 12 months. That leaves Vauxhall as the only leading British manufacturer with a restriction on mileage.

Announcing the changes, Mr Terence Beckett, managing director of Ford, said the cars were better equipped for the price than most imported models. By limiting price increases in the past six months Ford was fully competitive.

Stiff sentences ordered for football hooligans

Magistrates are to be told by the Lord Chancellor to impose stiff sentences on football hooligans. Lord Elwyn-Jones said yesterday that tomorrow he will tell the Magistrates' Association of the seriousness of the issue and of the need to impose realistic sentences.

He announced the subject of his speech in a letter replying to one from Mr Walter Johnson, MP for Derby, South, about football rowdiness.

Lord Elwyn-Jones said he was deeply concerned by the general increase in crimes of violence and was proposing to refer to it in his presidential address to the association. He added: "I can then draw the attention of magistrates to the seriousness of the situation and to the need to impose realistic sentences."

Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United supporters will be among sup-

Wider public role in planning is urged

From John Young

Planning Reporter

Harrowgate

The public should be given far wider and more frequent opportunities for participating in decisions that affect homes and neighbourhoods, Mr Harold Campbell, chairman of the Government's working party on housing co-operatives, said yesterday.

He told the annual conference of the National Planning and Town Planning Council at Exeter that there was a "thrombosis" of communication. Not everyone wanted to participate in decision-making, but very many people did, at least some of the time.

There were snags. Consultations and participation slowed down the process, and the responses of the community were often perverse. The process demanded patience and a

degree of humility on the part of the professional. The expert was trained to explain to a lay committee what he proposed and why, and to subject himself to its cross-examination. That experience ought to equip him to do the same to a group of tenants.

"He may, of course, perform well in a small group but be appalled at the prospect of having to face a semi-public meeting of dozens or even hundreds, not all of whom will show him the respect to which he may think his official position and his experience properly entitle him", Mr Campbell said.

"Residents who have been used to being told what is going to happen to their homes and to them may be expected to react suspiciously or sceptically when they learn that for the first time, they are to be consulted."

Council cuts staff cost by £250,000

By Our Local Government

Correspondent

Corwall County Council said yesterday that it had saved more than £250,000 in a year on staff costs, helped by the National and Local Government Officers' Association. That had averted any immediate need for drastic staff reductions.

In January, seeking to prune administration costs, the council decided not to fill posts as they became vacant unless the cost was less than £200,000, and so far the estimated value of 78 posts unfilled amounts to £263,000.

Temporary work: Unemployed school leavers are being offered temporary jobs by Exeter City Council, but they will be paid only £1 to £2 a week plus travelling expenses (our Exeter Correspondent writes).

Lord Watkinson calls for party cooperation to fight recession

By a Staff Reporter

Lasting economic recovery could only be export led, and activities that were spending rather than earning, such as local government, roads or subsidised loss-making in nationalised industry, would have to be severely curtailed, Lord Watkinson, deputy president of the Confederation of British Industry, said in a speech to the council of the Newspaper Society in London yesterday.

"This Government must curb its desire to interfere with business in every possible way if it wants to succeed in combating recession", he added.

For a time everyone would be much poorer and suffer under rough economic pressures. That was not a passing phase. Unemployment had not reached its peak. Looked at from the point of view of a businessman, who did 10 years as a government minister and then returned to

business, the solution seemed clear. Political differences had to be minimised.

"We do not necessarily have to change our beliefs. We have to be willing to work together in a plan for national industrial recovery, whatever our political beliefs."

The appropriate forum was the National Economic Development Council. But Lord Watkinson did not wish people to fall into the trap of the "5 per cent growth rate syndrome". It was no use creating a great national plan linked to a fixed and unchangeable rate of growth. Broad parameters of performance had to be set.

The Government must abandon its more extreme partisan legislation. That need not call for any change in its announced policy. In the past governments had achieved reasonable compromise in the national interest without unduly disturb-

ing "the symmetry of party recrimination". A good example was the setting up of the British National Export Council, which should be "reinvented". Many businessmen were happy to serve a cause like that under a government of either party.

The trade unions should concentrate on the practical problems and worry less about some of the theory. Lord Watkinson said that he sincerely congratulated Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for his initiative on wages. It was a practical plan from a practical man.

The solution to the problems ahead, and they are much graver than most of us yet realise, can be found only in a united approach between organised labour, organised employers and the government of the day.

Couple with sex shop deny rapist reports

The owner of a sex shop used by Peter Cook, the Cambridge rapist, appealed to Cambridge magistrates yesterday when it was decided that films, magazines and books seized in a police raid at the shop, The Love Inn, were obscene and should be forfeited.

John Morley, aged 35, and his wife, Pat, had been summoned to give a reason why the material should not be destroyed. They did not appear in court, but Mr John Howarth, their counsel, said: "In view of the publicity that has surrounded this case it has thought right to say that Mr and Mrs Morley are not and do not wish to be branded as crusaders who are seeking to extend the frontiers of permissiveness in Cambridge."

A statement issued to reporters before the hearing said: "There have been reports in many newspapers which may have resulted in the erroneous impression that Peter Cook, the man convicted of multiple rapes in Cambridge, was a regular client of The Love Inn."

"Mr Morley, the proprietor, wishes it to be stressed that this was not the case. The shop opened on February 11, 1975, long after the incidents commenced."

"Mr Cook made four brief and unpleasant visits to the shop in a period of 10 days around the end of April, 1975, and was never seen there subsequently."

Station for Heathrow 2 years late

The Central station at Heathrow airport will not be completed until late next year, nearly two years behind schedule, London Transport said yesterday.

The British Airports Authority said: "We need the Underground station at the earliest possible moment. This is one major step towards alleviating traffic in the airport's central area."

Since 1971 passenger movements have risen 33 per cent from 15 million a year to 20 million.

The Piccadilly Line extension from Hounslow West to Heathrow via Hatton Cross was originally due to be completed early this year. Hatton Cross station was opened in July, a year behind schedule, London Transport said.

"The tunnelling to Heathrow Central is complete and we now have to lay track and signals."

Mr Stonehouse criticizes police

From Our Parliamentary Staff

Blackpool

When the police object to bail in criminal courts they do not generally look at justice as a whole but are motivated by the one objective of securing a conviction, Mr John Stonehouse, the Labour MP, said at a meeting of Greater London Young Conservatives at a Blackpool hotel last night.

The administration of the bail system was shockingly bad and a national disgrace, he said. Bail was not being granted to people as a right but was being refused

because Britain's institutions were not being operated in a humane and just way.

Police officers objected to bail at a first court appearance because generally they were not taking into account their responsibility to the community and the totality of the case. The first reform needed was for the court to have before it on first appearance an objective probation service report which might counter the police case.

Mr Stonehouse said he came across the case of a man in Brixton prison who was in custody accused of smoking in a non-smoking compartment. He was in prison because he was

said to be suicidal. "I think this is a disgusting misuse of prison", he said.

If the alleged offences of those in custody in the George Davis campaign had been committed by university undergraduates nobody would have taken any notice. "But because they are from the East End of London bail is refused vindictively," he said. "The last thing in the world that would happen is that they would abscond, because that would completely undermine the case they are trying to put for their friend. They are among the 2,000 people in prison tonight who should not be there."

Man sucked into airliner engine awarded £18,000

Mr Richard Brown, an aircraft maintenance engineer, of Hetherington Road, Charlton Village, Shepperton, Middlesex, who was sucked into the engine of a jet airliner in November, 1972, was awarded £18,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday. Mr Brown, who is in his thirties, lost his left hand and lower forearm and suffered other injuries. But he was back at work within four months.

The damages, with costs, were against Mr Brown's employer, British Airways. Mr

Anthony Machin, QC, for Mr Brown, said: "His employers have continued to employ him and have promoted him to a job within his capabilities and promised to keep him in steady employment."

Another Heathrow airport worker, Francis Owen, a loader driver, of Segrave Close, Weybridge, Surrey, was awarded agreed damages of £15,500 for leg injuries in a fall while he was loading a Boeing 707 in September, 1973. The judgment was against Pan-American World Airways.

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Elms in royal parks may be doomed

By a Staff Reporter

There may be no mature elms in any of London's royal parks after next year if Dutch elm disease continues out of control, Lady Birk, Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, said yesterday.

Preliminary figures of a Forestry Commission survey indicate that up to two million new elms have been destroyed this year, bringing the total destroyed over the past four years to about six million.

Lady Birk, speaking at a press conference in Hyde Park, where the disease has killed 132 trees this year, said that plans were being considered to replace felled trees with limes, oaks, maples, chestnuts, beeches, ginkgos and tulip trees.

She said of the royal parks: "The spread of the disease is accelerating, helped by the very dry summer. We lost 50 per cent of the elms in 1973 and 1974; this year over 2,000 trees died and almost half of the remaining 3,000 are already infected." New outbreaks were still occurring in September and the disease was now attacking all species of elm.

Hampton Court and Bushy Park, where the disease has killed 856 elms this year, are worst affected. Of the 649 elms still standing, only 51 are free from visible infection.

Civil Service to discuss smoking curbs

By Our Labour Staff

The Civil Service is to consider whether smokers and non-smokers should be segregated in government offices or whether 'there' should be no smoking periods during the day.

This follows a meeting yesterday between the 100,000-member Institution of Professional Civil Servants and the national staff side of the Whitley Council, which represents 600,000 civil servants.

The staff side will meet the Civil Service Department to discuss action on "unrestricted smoking in offices".

Mr James O'Dea, the institution's press officer, said he was encouraged that the national staff side had shown a realization of the health dangers involved in unrestricted smoking.

Electrical repair danger

People who repair electrical goods themselves to avoid VAT on repairs may be risking their lives, the National Consumer Protection Council said yesterday. It is writing to Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, appealing to him to cut the VAT rate on servicing such goods from 25 per cent to 8 per cent for the safety of consumers.

Dispute threatens delay to TriStar flights

More than six hundred maintenance workers at Heathrow airport began blocking British Airways six TriStar jets yesterday because of a pay dispute.

The action, which may delay European flights, was taken after the breakdown of talks on Tuesday on a pay and flexibility deal for European division maintenance workers.

Senior management staff are making checks before departures but the maintenance men say all six may be grounded within a week.

Mr Robert Ratcliffe, a senior shop steward, said the management had offered £245 a week.

An independent report has suggested that the offer could be increased to £408. "But because of the attitude of the other sections the management has withdrawn all its offers", he said.

"We think we could have reached agreement on the basis of the independent report. But the other sections are saying they do not wish to proceed with flexibility agreements at the moment and that we should not, either."

British Airways said: "All six TriStars are operational and we think it would be some time before they would all have to be withdrawn."

WEST EUROPE

Mr Callaghan reacts to criticism by insisting there are issues where EEC cannot speak for Britain

By Roger Berthoud

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday defended his insistence at Tuesday's meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers that Britain should have its own representation at the projected conference between producers and consumers of oil and other primary products. His stand at the Luxembourg meeting produced angry accusations from some EEC partners of backsliding on earlier commitments.

Addressing a conference of American and European newspaper editors and proprietors in London, Mr Callaghan said the original purpose of the conference had been extended from oil to other primary products, industrial development and financial machinery.

There were issues on which the EEC was capable of representing "all that interests" he said. "But we must hold ourselves free to say there are matters on which we would better represent ourselves."

"I do not sacrifice what I regard as the national interest in this matter unless I can be convinced that it is better for Britain to do so. So far I have not been convinced of that."

Next week's preparatory talks in Paris would not settle the question of representation and had not been intended to do so. Many industrial countries had asked to be represented, including Australia, Canada, Norway and Sweden.

Britain must establish a claim and see how final representation worked out.

Mr Callaghan had been asked why, having claimed that the Nine were more effective collectively in world affairs than as individual voices, he had taken this stand. In his reply he sought to broaden the issue beyond energy, pointing out that London was also the world's second biggest financial centre, but officials later left no doubt that Britain's North Sea oil was his primary pre-occupation.

Michael Hornsby, writes from Brussels: If Britain maintains its insistence on being represented separately it will be "profoundly regrettable". European Commission sources said here. The decision was understood to have been discussed by the Commission at its weekly session today.

One possible compromise that has been suggested is that Britain could be allowed to speak separately on the commission dealing solely with energy questions at the conference, while accepting EEC representation on those discussing other relations.

Richard Wieg writes from Paris: French diplomatic circles were today refusing to dramatize what Le Figaro this morning called "Britain's bombshell".

Since the breakdown of the first preparatory meeting in April, the French have had their fingers crossed. Their con-

cern is obvious: President Giscard d'Estaing has always felt the number of countries represented must be restricted as much as possible to achieve effective negotiations and avoid the "gladiatorial contests" familiar at United Nations gatherings.

At a deeper level, France and West Germany are interested chiefly in obtaining reasonably priced sources of energy, not high-priced ones like North Sea oil, and want the same principle to apply equally to other raw materials.

Fred Emery writes from Washington: The formal reaction from the State Department was that the issue was an internal matter for the EEC. It is clear, however, that the Americans feel they were not informed by Britain of its intention to depart from what was seen as an understanding that the EEC countries would take only one of the seats for developed countries.

It was noted, on the other hand, that Britain had entered a reservation of its final position all along.

Bonn, Oct. 8.—West Germany today expressed regret over Britain's insistence on being represented separately and said it would use its influence to try to make the British change their minds.

Herr Armin Grünwald, the Government spokesman, said: "We have good relations with the British Government and we shall make use of them."

European experts want 'think tank' for Nine

Need urged for plans to cope with changes in the next 30 years

From David Cross

Brussels, Oct. 8.—A high-level "think tank" with a permanent staff of 75 experts should be set up to help the power centres of the European Community to "make wise decisions in a largely but not wholly uncontrollable world".

This is the principal suggestion to emerge from a preliminary survey entitled "Europe plus Thirty", which was drawn up by a team of European academics under the leadership of Lord Kennet, the former Labour minister.

The group was entrusted 18 months ago with the task of suggesting ways in which the Community could prepare itself for the uncertainties of the next 30 years.

The report, which has been submitted to Herr Guido Brunner, the European Commissioner for research and development, outlines the urgent need for a medium and longer-term forecasting body.

"The pace of change and the uncertainty of its direction have made forecasting more than ever necessary, to anticipate change, to prepare contingency plans, to take out insurance policies against various dangers and to help in building the future as far as one can," it says.

The Community in particular, established in response to great changes in the European and international environment of the member states, must avail itself of the best possible forecasts if it is to respond appropriately to continuing changes.

The authors of the report, who include other prominent European personalities like Dr Ralf Dahrendorf, the former West German Commissioner and Director of the London School of Economics, say the job of Community forecasters should be to focus on "those possible future conditions of European society which are rationally conceivable".

Incompatibilities between these goals would be set out and the costs and benefits of each described. Among the sectors covered by the think tank would be agriculture, fisheries and forestry, social structures and values, education, energy, environment, defence and disarmament and politics and institutions.

The survey concedes that the establishment of a think tank at an annual cost of nearly £3m is likely to bring objections from some of the more cost-conscious member governments, like the West Germans and the British.

"The instrument will cost something, and hard-headed people will think of the economic crisis of inflation, of runaway public expenditure, of the proliferation, etc.", the authors say.

"But it is precisely to reduce the likelihood of these that 'Europe plus Thirty' would be set up. It is short views which have landed us in our present difficulties, and now is the time for longer views. It would be paradoxical if the Community was to judge itself already too ill to reach for the medicine."

Chileans saved from being deported

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Oct. 8

Sixteen Chileans, including nine children, were given a last-minute reprieve from an enforced return to Romania today. They were to have been deported after illegally entering West Berlin, but the four West German states of Hamburg, Bremen, North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse declared themselves ready to accept one family each.

They arrived illegally in West Berlin from Romania in August. The Supreme Administrative Court ruled in early September that they had no right to stay. On October 3 a warrant of arrest was issued but not carried out immediately in the hope that the Chileans would leave on their own.

In January 38 Chileans arrived in West Berlin from Romania, saying, as the present group do, that they were disappointed with their new homeland. They were allowed to stay but warnings were given that other groups would not be given residence permits. A small group which arrived some weeks later was returned to Romania.

Some Chileans who were granted asylum in East Germany have also moved to West Berlin.

The West German Länder which have volunteered to accept the 16 made it clear that they were not prepared to accept any future illegal immigrants from Chile.

Party official 'tried to smuggle £21,000'

From Roger Cheate Stockholm, Oct. 8

The treasurer of the Finnish Social Democratic Party was detained at Stockholm airport on Sunday after he and two companions allegedly tried to smuggle nearly 200,000 kronor (about £21,000) in banknotes out of Sweden, reliable sources confirmed today.

The Swedish Social Democratic Party, in a statement, confirmed that it had handed over the money to Mr Pentti Ketola, the Finnish party treasurer. "But we had assumed that it would be taken out of the country in accordance with

Swedish currency regulations."

Not more than 6,000 kronor in cash can be transferred out of Sweden without a permit from the Swedish Central Bank. Mr Ketola was reported to have said he did not realize a permit was needed. He was released by customs officials at the airport after a three-hour delay, but without the money.

The sources said the money was intended for the Finnish metal workers union election next month.

They said that DM100,000 (£19,000) from the West German metal workers union was sent to the Swedish metal workers union. To this, the

Swedish union added about 75,000 kronor, and the whole sum was handed over to Mr Nils-Gösta Damberg, the Swedish Social Democratic Party treasurer. He, in turn, gave it to Mr Ketola, the sources said.

An authoritative Swedish Social Democratic source tonight told me that Mr Damberg had acted on his own initiative in the affair, which the party did not condone.

Opposition leaders in Sweden said today that Mr Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, should clarify several mysteries surrounding the transactions. Mr Palme's office said tonight he did not intend to comment.

Giscard plea to restrict violence in films

Paris, Oct. 8.—President Giscard d'Estaing asked the Government and the film industry today to take joint measures "within a short time" to curb perversion and violence in films.

The President told the Cabinet there would be no going back on the abolition of film censorship, decided last year, "but liberalization should not lead to an increase of films which spread violence and perversion, the commercialization of which is evidently motivated only by the exclusive search of profit."

Communists support Portugal's dissidents

From Michael Knipe Lisbon, Oct. 8

In spite of being represented in Portugal's sixth Government the Communist Party today expressed its open support for the military and civilian dissidents.

At a moment of extensive and worsening insubordination within the armed forces and mass demonstrations of opposition by civilian groups, the party said that the popular masses had taken an initiative and begun "a counter-offensive against the Government's reactionary tendencies".

Dismissing the contention that chaos and anarchy existed in the military, it praised the "widespread and vigorous soldiers' movement". Order in the armed forces could be restored only by removing reactionaries from positions of leadership the party statement said.

Civil war would be no solution to Portugal's problems, the party went on and called for a meeting of representatives of the various factions within the Armed Forces Movement (MFA), "the parties of the revolutionary left" and the Socialist Party to discuss the nation's grave problems.

Although the statement made token reference to the party's support for the Government's programme, it substantially demolished the façade of Communist Party cooperation in the attempts of Admiral Pinheiro de Azevedo, the Prime Minister, to establish political stability.

The statement claimed that the Government was compromised by the presence of the "reactionary" popular Democratic Party. It said that the crisis was being aggravated by the fact that, contrary to agreements reached when the Government was formed, attempts were being made to reduce even further the Communist Party's chances of intervening in Government policies.

Government posts promised to the Communist Party were being given to others, the state-

ment said. Instead of taking firm action against reactionaries within the state machine, the Government continued purges of left-wingers.

Only one ministry is headed by a Communist, but there are several Communist secretaries of state.

The Prime Minister today called in Dr Alvaro Cunhal, the secretary-general of the Communist Party. It seems likely that this was to express his concern at the party's attitude which places its continued membership in the Government in question.

In Oporto today rebellious troops continued their occupation of the barracks of the left-wing Serra do Pilar regiment of artillery. They threatened to leave it until the military leadership agreed to construct a left-wing military transport unit disbanded last weekend because of insubordination.

Loyal troops are standing guard over the barracks of the disbanded unit. They threw tear gas again last night to disperse crowds of left-wing demonstrators and 18 people were injured.

A spokesman for the commanding officer of the northern military region has said that there are no plans to carry out any violent action against the left-wing troops occupying the artillery barracks.

There was confusion today over the extent to which the Government gave in last night to the thousands of steelworkers who demonstrated outside the Ministry of Labour and in other parts of the country.

The communist-led steelworkers claimed that the Minister of Labour had agreed to activate an edict passed by the previous Government which promised them higher wages and increased job security.

The controversial measure was apparently drawn up despite the objections of the steel company managements and the present Government has so far rejected its legality.

British players draw in Barcelona chess

Barcelona, Oct. 8.—Raymond Keene of England and S. J. Hutchings of Wales both drew their games in the second round of the European zonal chess tournament in Barcelona today.

Keene, with one point, now shares first place with five other players, but one of them, Genadi Sosonko of Holland, has an adjourned game to finish. Hutchings has half a point.

The two leading players at the end of the tournament will qualify for the interzonal stage of the world championships next year.—AP.

Bank robber gave city's children a treat

Koblenz, West Germany, Oct. 8.—A bank clerk on a day trip from Cologne held up a bank in Koblenz and handed hundreds of DM5 (£1) notes to children before police caught him.

Police said today that the clerk got away with DM25,000 after brandishing a pistol in the bank. Instead of mingling with city crowds, he started giving away notes to every boy and girl in sight.

Within minutes he was being followed like the Pied Piper of Hamelin by a crowd of gleeful children and their disbelieving mothers.—Reuter.

Compromise sought on Isle of Man birching case

Strasbourg, Oct. 8.—The European Human Rights Commission will try to arrange a compromise settlement between Britain and a youth of 19 who was birched in the Isle of Man, the Council of Europe said today.

The unidentified youth has accused the British and Isle of Man Governments of imposing degrading treatment on him.

He complained to the 18-nation council's human rights commission that the birch punishment ordered by the Manx Criminal Appeals Court was a violation of the European human rights convention.

The commission, the executive body of the European Human Rights Court, today completed the hearings. It decided to seek a friendly settlement and to bypass the human rights court, a council statement said.

commission declared the complaint admissible under convention articles prohibiting torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment as well as discrimination.

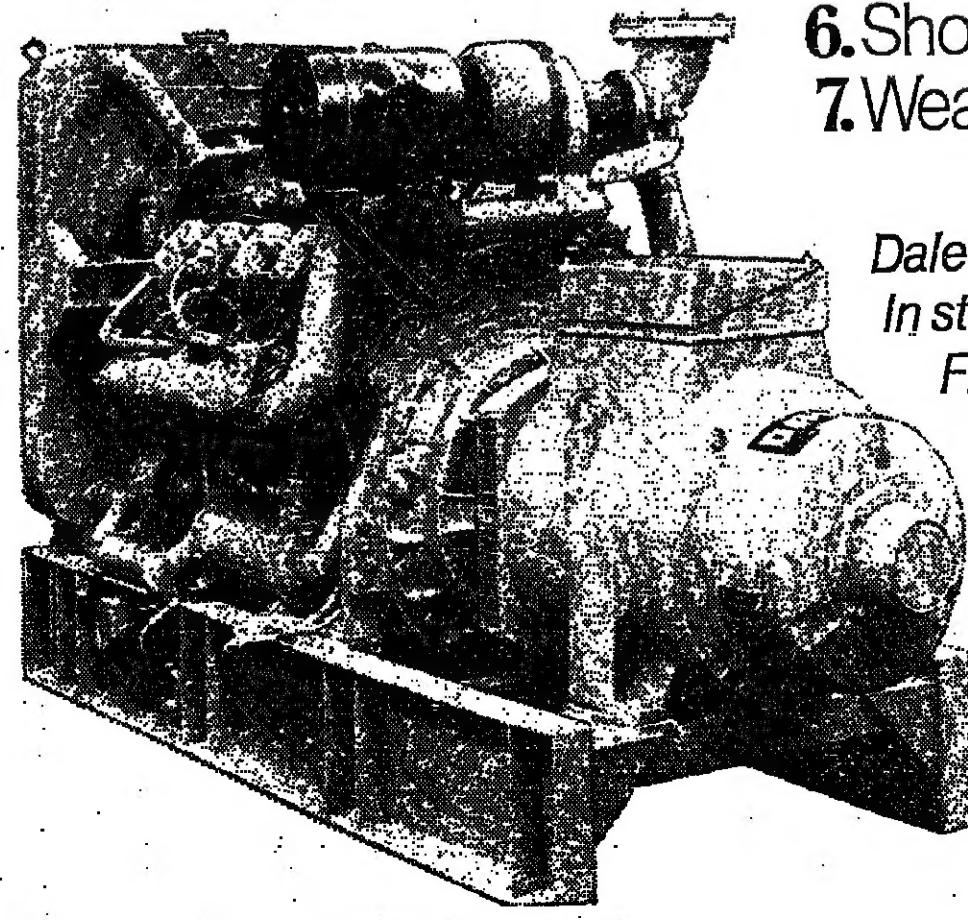
The youth's lawyers maintain that the Manx law, which authorizes birching, is discriminatory because such punishment is applied only to males of a certain age group.

Informed sources said that Britain has never contested the acceptance of the complaint by the commission and has not seriously challenged the charges of degrading treatment.

But there was some confusion whether the British Government could be held responsible in Strasbourg for acts under Manx law, the sources said. It was also not clear whether the Manx Government could be seen as bound by the European Human Rights Convention.

If you think a generating set is an expensive luxury, here are 7 ways you can lose power this winter.

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OVERSEAS

Yugoslavs hope Russia will give way over communists' summit

From Dassa Trevisan
Belgrade, Oct 8

A Yugoslav delegation led by Mr. Alexander Grickovic, a secretary of the presidium executive committee, has left for East Berlin where European communists will make yet another attempt to resolve their disagreements over the summit meeting which, after 12 months of consultation, is still in the preparatory stage.

The Russians are keen to get it off the ground and have been showing signs of irritation because of the deadlock that has lasted for more than five months. The draft document for the conference encountered staunch opposition from at least five parties. The Yugoslavs rejected it entirely and any major concession would have come from the Soviet side.

The visit by Mr. Konstantin Katushev, a secretary of the Soviet central committee, to Bucharest last week suggested that the Russians are ready to offer a compromise and wished to secure Romanian cooperation to save the conference from collapse. There would be no point in a conference boycotted

by important parties, but to drop the idea would be to admit a defeat.

Not much of the original idea would be left if all the objections made by parties such as the Yugoslavs were met. The Yugoslavs think that, to save the conference, the Russians are ready to go a long way in meeting various demands.

An indication of Soviet impatience was given, however, by Mr. Kadar, the Hungarian leader, who, in a speech yesterday, attacked "opportunists, nationalists and anti-Soviet elements" in the world communist movement. He said that, in spite of opposition, preparations for the European summit were going ahead. The Hungarian party was doing its utmost to reinforce the movement.

Another indication of Yugoslav resolve to affirm its independence was given today when Chairman Mao Tse-tung received Mr. Djedjic, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, who is visiting China. Mr. Djedjic is said to have conveyed President Tito's greetings and his visit, it is believed here, could lead to a visit by President Tito to Peking.

13 hostages held by refugees at UN office

Buenos Aires, Oct 8.—Some 15 Chilean refugees seized 13 hostages at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees today.

Policemen and firemen gathered outside the building, but no immediate action was taken. The policemen were armed with machine guns.

One of the refugees said over the telephone that any violence by the security forces would have "grave consequences for the hostages" and his group was ready to face the "ultimate consequences".

The hostages, seven women and six men, were both Argentine and foreign.

The spokesman for the refugees said the seizure was carried out to protest against the poor living conditions of Chilean and other Latin American refugees in Argentina. The action was directed against the United Nations, not against the Argentine Government.

The spokesman said the refugees asked to be sent to any "democratic country in the world that might receive us". He did not specify whether the request was for his group or all refugees in the country.

Thousands of Chileans have fled to Argentina since the military coup which overthrew President Allende's Marxist Government in 1973. Some 3,000 are at present awaiting transfer to overseas countries that will accept them.

Officials of the United Nations High Commission have indicated that commission finances, which come chiefly from donations by United Nations member countries, are under strain because of the large number of Chilean exiles.—AP and Reuters.



Men in a Beirut suburb where faction fighting erupted again yesterday, carrying a wounded woman to safety.

Reuters telex and phones cut off in Delhi

Delhi, Oct 8.—The Indian Government today cut off the telex and telephone lines of Reuters office in Delhi and the home telephones of its three correspondents.

Mr. Harry D'Penha, the chief censor, told the news agency that the action had been taken because of a report last Monday on the beating of political prisoners in Delhi's Tihar jail.

The report has not been denied but Mr. D'Penha said it was a serious violation of censorship regulations.

The telex and home and office telephones of United Press International have been disconnected for the past week. Similar action also had been taken earlier against the New York Times, the Associated Press and two West German correspondents.—Reuters.

New York crisis raises fear of violence

Continued from page 1

In addition, Mr. Axelsson said, plans are being studied for tax increases, but the full study will not be completed before the end of the year.

The dramatic steps being taken, which all admit will see some major cuts in services provided by the city, could be wrecked by the trade unions. The emergency financial control board has rejected the settlement reached after a five-day strike between teachers and the city and this could be the first test of union militancy.

In the view of state and city

officials, the federal government must provide a breathing space to put the new plans into operation with guaranteed bonds.

A moratorium on debt repayments, as proposed by the Treasury, is totally impractical and unworkable, according to Mr. Rohatyn.

If President Ford does not relent then, Mr. Rohatyn said, default by the city is unavoidable. In the view of a leading businessman, there is then a real prospect of the city not being able to meet its payroll and violence will rear New York apart.

The impact of a New York City default could be immense,

nationally and internationally, and could well force the state of New York into default shortly after. But President Ford refuses to believe this and is clearly unaware of all that Mr. Axelsson and others are doing to save the city.

The President said last night that the authorities of the city had adopted "no viable programme that I have seen that will get them out of their difficulties".

He believed a city default "is controllable", although a state default would possibly be a different matter. But "I cannot believe a state with all that wealth can't meet that problem".

Mr Benn invites Japan to take part in North Sea oil

Tokyo, Oct 8.—Mr. Wengwood Benn, the Energy Minister, told Japanese Government leaders today that Britain would welcome Tokyo's participation in developing the North Sea oil fields.

Mr. Toshio Komoto, the Japanese Industry Minister, told reporters afterwards that Mr. Benn had said Britain would invite Japanese and other foreign firms to take part.

At an earlier press conference, Mr. Benn described

British oil exports after 1980 as "a real and practicable possibility". He said that production of the North Sea's low-sulphur crude oil was expected to make Britain self-sufficient in terms of tonnage by 1980.

The total value of its reserves in the North Sea was believed to be £200,000m. The Energy Minister explained that Britain was not in a position to guarantee future supplies to individual countries abroad.—Reuters.

Airlines oppose Ford plan for fares

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Oct 8

Saying that "for many Americans, air travel has become a luxury too expensive to afford", President Ford today sent Congress a proposal to reduce competition of the domestic airline industry and encourage fare competition.

The measure would have no direct effect outside the United States, but Dr. William Coleman, the Secretary of Transportation, suggested at a news conference: "When the domestic situation becomes more competitive it might lead international airlines to review their prices to the United States."

The Airlines Association immediately protested. Reflecting its present financial difficulties, it denounced the proposals as "misconceived", and said unrestrained competition

would disrupt service and cause confusion.

The President's proposal would revise the authority of the Civil Aeronautics Board, set up in 1938 to protect an emerging airline industry. Mr. Ford said: "This legislation would replace the present promotional and protectionist regulatory system with one that best serves the needs of the public by allowing the naturally competitive nature of the industry to operate."

Among its provisions, Mr. Ford's Bill would ease restrictions on charter services. It also would relax the rules on abandoning and instituting of services, depending on demand. The airlines argue that such action would cause many cities to lose their present air service. The airline lobby can now be counted on to try to rally resistance in Congress.

Congress support for US commitment in Sinai

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Oct 8

Both Houses of Congress opened debates today on resolutions approving the sending of 200 American technicians to monitor the Sinai agreement. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee gave its approval yesterday.

The agreement, which was signed in Geneva last month by Israel and Egypt, does not take effect until Congress has approved the American commitment. The debate in the foreign relations committee turned upon the question of how deeply America might become involved in another Middle East war, and whether the American promise to Egypt and Israel should be published.

The committee eventually published the documents, des-

pite Dr. Kissinger's protests. He then assured it that there were no further agreements, and insisted that the technicians would be withdrawn in case of danger.

The committee found these assurances sufficient, although there is a continuing undercurrent of apprehension that the resolution, which will be passed by the end of the week, might be a new Cold War trigger resolution. That famous measure was used by President Johnson to justify direct American involvement in Vietnam.

Dr. Schlesinger, the Secretary of Defense, told the annual conference of the American Federation of Labour-Council of Industrial Organizations yesterday that Israel would probably not get the Pershing missiles which are mentioned in the memorandum of agreement drawn up by Dr. Kissinger and the Israeli Government.

In brief

Russian reunited with fiancée

Vienna, Oct 8.—Frau Johanna Steindl, a Vienna teacher, and Mr. Alexander Sokolov, her Russian fiancé, were reunited today after a five-month battle to win official approval for their wedding. They hope to marry within a week.

Mr. Sokolov, aged 31, arrived here after obtaining travel documents to leave the Soviet Union. Dr. Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, made an appeal on the couple's behalf.

Wife's plea to West

Moscow, Oct 8.—The wife of Mr. Leonid Plyusch, the mathematician who has spent three and a half years in psychiatric treatment in the Soviet Union, today appealed for the West to help her husband's cause.

Appeal for poet

Seoul, Oct 8.—Seven opposition and civil rights leaders have demanded the release of Mr. Kim Chi Ha, the South Korean dissident poet awaiting trial on political charges that could bring the death penalty.

Lord Home's tour

Washington, Oct 8.—Dr. Kissinger, the Secretary of State, today had lunch with Lord Home of the Hirsell, who is on a speaking tour at the invitation of the English Speaking Union.

Emperor in California

Los Angeles, Oct 8.—Emperor Hirohito of Japan and Empress Nagako arrived in Los Angeles today to begin a three-day California tour.

19 seamen missing

Tokyo, Oct 8.—Nineteen seamen were missing today after three shipwrecks in storms off Japan. On land five people died in a landslide in a flood caused by torrential rain.

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OVERSEAS

Timor leftists accuse Indonesians of attacking border town

Darwin, Australia, Oct. 8.—An official of the left-wing Fretilin Party from Portuguese Timor said in Darwin tonight that Indonesian forces had attacked and temporarily taken the border town of Batugade today after an assault from Indonesian West Timor, backed by aircraft and ships.

The official, Mr. Mari Alkatiri, said Fretilin troops later recaptured the town, but they were now surrounded by the Indonesians. "The situation is very bad," he said, reporting after arriving in Darwin from Dili, the capital of Portuguese Timor.

Mr. Alkatiri is a member of the three-man central committee of Fretilin, the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, which has been involved in fierce fighting for control of the colony with the pro-Indonesian Timor Democratic Union (UDT).

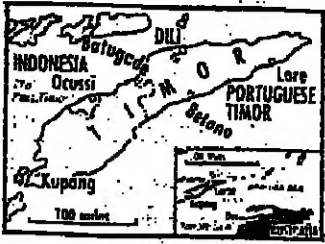
He said Fretilin was "seeking support and help from the Australian Government". This did not mean the use of Australian troops but "diplomatic support to stop interference from Indonesia".

Mr. Alkatiri said about 200 Indonesian troops were now in control of the area round Batugade and that 300 Fretilin soldiers were surrounded in the town. Half of the defending force had been sent to Batugade from Dili today.

In reply to questions, he acknowledged that there might be UDT forces among the attackers, but he added: "The helicopters, planes and destroyers can't be UDT".

In Dili, Fretilin spokesman said the attack on Batugade "looks like the beginning of a very big operation".

He said: "Jet aircraft first attacked the town in the early hours of this morning and were followed by waves of regular Indonesian troops". Helicopter gunships were used against the Fretilin defenders, and the attacking troops were covered by supporting fire from a ship lying off Batugade.



Jakarta, Oct. 8.—Reports of a land, air and sea assault on Batugade were denied by the Indonesian Defence Ministry. "The Indonesian side has never issued orders to attack", a spokesman said.

Other Jakarta officials, noting that the report described an assault on the town by Indonesian jets, said most of the country's aged Sabre fighters were in Sumatra, for a joint exercise with Malaysia.

However, the Indonesian armed forces newspaper *Angkatan Bersenjata* reported that pro-Indonesian forces in Portuguese Timor had recaptured Batugade, their former headquarters, on Monday.

Indonesia has launched at least one lightning attack on Fretilin positions in Portuguese Timor, according to reliable sources in Jakarta. Indonesian troops were today reported by the newspaper *Kompas* to have killed seven Fretilin soldiers and captured 11 on the border.—Reuter.

In Canberra, a spokesman for Mr. Whitlam, the Prime Minister, said the Australian Government had received a telegram from Dili today but he refused to reveal the contents. Fretilin is known to have sent several appeals to the Australian Government for diplomatic intervention.

Mr. Alkatiri said he would fly to Portugal later this week to prepare for negotiations between the Portuguese Government and Fretilin on the future administration of the colony. A six-man Fretilin delegation from Dili would follow him to Lisbon.—Reuter.

WHO drive to combat six tropical diseases

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Oct. 8

An intensive campaign against six tropical infectious diseases, afflicting between them about 650 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America, is being initiated by the World Health Organisation.

The diseases are malaria, schistosomiasis (bilharziasis), filariasis (including onchocerciasis (river blindness), trypanosomiasis (both sleeping sickness and Chagas disease), leprosy and the different forms of leishmaniasis (kala-azar, tropical ulcer).

In the case of malaria, a vaccine is in the experimental stage, used on animals. A network of collaborating laboratories will seek vaccines for the others.

Dr. Adeyemi Lambo, of Nigeria, deputy director-general of WHO, told a press conference that while a practical malaria vaccine for human use was not just round the corner, recent results warranted an effort to develop one.

In essence, he said, the campaign would bring to bear on the six diseases all the scientific weapons available in the advanced countries.

Dr. H. C. Goodman, the director of the new programme, said that the world's total annual research budget for tropical diseases was about \$30m (£15m), "pitifully small", whereas the advanced nations were spending perhaps \$800m a year on cancer research alone.

Mrs Thatcher's feat a 'tremendous encouragement' Woman politician stakes her claim to lead Canadian Conservatives

From John Best
Ottawa, Oct. 8

Miss Flora Macdonald, MP for the eastern Ontario constituency of Kingston in the Islands has become a candidate for the leadership of Canada's Progressive Conservative Party.

The vivacious redhead, aged 49, is the second contender officially declared for the post which is being vacated by Mr. Robert Stanfield, the Opposition leader. However, as many as 10 others are expected to enter the contest before the leadership convention in Ottawa next February.

Miss Macdonald announced her candidacy at a press conference today. She said her campaigning would have two main themes: "The rescue by people of their own institutions and their own government"; the rediscovery by Canadians of their "sense of purpose".

Asked whether she had been inspired by the example of Mrs. Thatcher, Miss Macdonald said she had the possibility of seeking the leadership under consideration for some time before Mrs. Thatcher contested the leadership of the British Conservative Party. However, what Mrs. Thatcher had accomplished had been a "tremendous encouragement".

Miss Macdonald said she was not running as a woman leader but as a would-be leader who is a woman.

Miss Macdonald held a session of posts in the Conservative Party secretariat before entering the Commons in 1972. She is the spokesman on housing and urban affairs in Mr. Stanfield's Shadow Cabinet. She is generally considered a strong candidate for the leadership, with as high a national reputation as any of the likely contenders.

But her position on the left wing of the party, among a group sometimes referred to as "Red Tories", may hurt her chances. Many Conservatives, disenchanted with the liberal conservatism of Mr. Stanfield, want the party to stake out a strong place on the right wing of the political spectrum.

The only other declared candidate for Mr. Stanfield's job is Mr. Howard Graffius, an MP from Quebec. Mr. John Fraser, an articulate young MP, from British Columbia, is expected to announce his candidacy soon.

S African fear of more violence in bus boycott

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Oct. 8

The boycott of buses by African workers in the Natal town of Newcastle, which has now been going on for 10 days, provides a stark warning of how socially dangerous South Africa's present economic crisis could turn out to be.

Already two Africans have been killed and scores injured during rioting last week. There are fears that more violence could break out if a solution is not found soon, and this unrest could quickly spread across the country.

It is of particular significance that yesterday's sweeping anti-inflation manifesto said the present high rate of inflation threatened the country's economic and social stability. For what the Newcastle bus boycott has demonstrated with the utmost clarity is that rising prices, by squeezing black workers who are already living close to or below the poverty line, constitute a serious threat to the security of South Africa.

Trouble started in Newcastle when the Trans-Tugela transport company, which carries workers from the African townships of Madabeni and Osizweni to the city's industrial centre, raised its fares by an average of 5 cents (about 3p) for a one-way journey. This may not sound very much, but fares have already risen by about 200 per cent in the past two years.

Further, the bus fares are particularly resented because they are seen as an expense incurred by apartheid, which forces Africans to live in townships far from their places of work. Madabeni is eight miles from Newcastle and Osizweni 14 miles.

For an African living in Madabeni, his bus fares now consume a crippling 13.6 per cent of his wages, or about £2 a week. An inhabitant of Osizweni pays one-fifth of his weekly wage packet to get to and from work. With many Africans already earning below the Natal poverty datum line of £18 a week, it is not hard to see why the latest increase has caused such explosive resentment, particularly as the cost of other essentials, notably food, is also rising rapidly.

At present an impasse has been reached in the bus dispute. Thousands of workers are continuing to make the long journey to and from work by foot while the boycotted yellow buses cruise around virtually empty. Meanwhile, armed police are on the alert in case of new violence.

The leaders of the two townships have made it clear in talks with the Trans-Tugela transport company that the boycott will go on until the increase is withdrawn. They also want the company to be removed from the area. However, the transport chairman, Mr. Dana Viljoen, has said that his company would "bleed to death" without the fare increase.

Clearly there is an urgent need for transport subsidies, but so far the Government has not been prepared to act.

Mexico strikes dissenting note on oil

From Peter Strassford
New York, Oct. 8

President Echeverria of Mexico, has warned the oil producing countries that high prices could bring about a situation in which "the industrial countries will organize a scientific revolution in the field of energy". He added that they caused a serious imbalance for the countries without oil.

These points were made in a speech at yesterday's session of the United Nations General Assembly. They were interesting because Mexico is itself an oil exporter, though not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), and because it has been active in trying to bring about a "new international world economic order".

Señor Echeverria did not side with the oil consuming countries, since he said that the affluent countries must pay a fair price for raw materials, including oil. He advocated a "true association" that would be based on fair prices, technological innovation and economic benefits available to all.

He suggested that Opec countries should increase the assistance they give to the developing countries, partly by putting a stop to "the superfluous investments being made in the oil metropolises".

He also defended the moves by producers of raw materials, including oil, to raise prices.

Taiwan to admit 'agents' freed by Peking

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Oct. 8

It now seems clear that having learnt a hard lesson from their widely condemned refusal to admit 10 released "war criminals" to Taiwan, the Chinese Nationalists will receive their 200 or so "agents" recently freed by Peking.

Over the past few years the Chinese Communists captured more than 400 Nationalist agents and saboteurs when they landed on the mainland. In Peking's new mood, several hundred—some war-prisoners jailed since 1949 and including the agents—have been given permission to return to Taiwan.

The Nationalist authorities refused to accept 10 elderly generals who had been liberated, and some of whom had families in Taiwan. The reason given was that they declined to denounce publicly their Communist captors.

As a result, one committed suicide, three reluctantly returned to China and the remainder are seeking sanctuary with relatives in the United States.

It now appears that the second released batch of "agents" will be allowed to enter the offshore Nationalist islands of Quemoy and Matsu—but not Taiwan itself.

It remains to be seen whether the former prisoners will be admitted to Taiwan, where their families and friends anxiously await them. The situation is complicated by the fact that many of the released "agents" have paid public tribute to the manner in which they were treated while imprisoned in China. Peking, in its present propaganda mood, will again pay their fares and upkeep until they return to their homeland. It also has promised them suitable employment in China if they are still refused admittance to Taiwan.

Former company chief cannot leave Singapore

Singapore, Oct. 8.—A Singapore court today rejected an application by Dennis William Pinder, former chairman of Sime Darby Ltd, for leave to go to Britain for medical treatment.

His lawyer had presented a medical report from a London physician stating that a blood clot in Mr. Pinder's left leg needed immediate medical treatment. But the judge upheld a previous decision that the treatment required was available in Singapore.

Mr. Pinder, aged 51, is charged with criminal breach of trust and contravening the Companies Act involving more than 3m Singapore dollars (£600,000). He has pleaded not guilty, and is on bail.—Reuter.

Russian drive against drug peddlars

Moscow, Oct. 8.—The Soviet Supreme Court today published a resolution urging greater vigilance against crimes involving drugs, and particular efforts to track down peddlars.

The resolution, reported by Tass, said drug abuse was not widespread in the Soviet Union, but added that a plenum of the Supreme Court meeting in the past few days had examined the problem in view of its "serious social danger".

Soviet officials deny they have a drug problem, although marijuana is grown and openly smoked in parts of Soviet Central Asia and Transcaucasia. The maximum jail sentence for making or supplying drugs is 10 years.—Reuter.

Amin warning to students not to oppose him

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Oct. 8

President Amin of Uganda warned university students today not to oppose his regime, and not to spread "rumours" against it. He was speaking at the graduation ceremony at Makerere University in Kampala, which formed part of celebrations marking the thirteenth anniversary of Uganda's independence.

Speaking as Chancellor of the University, President Amin said: "We expect you to study hard and thereafter join in building a peaceful, united Uganda".

As a result of his "economic war", many non-Ugandans had left the country, and it was short of skilled manpower. Most of the graduating students would be posted to teach in schools to help to overcome the shortage.

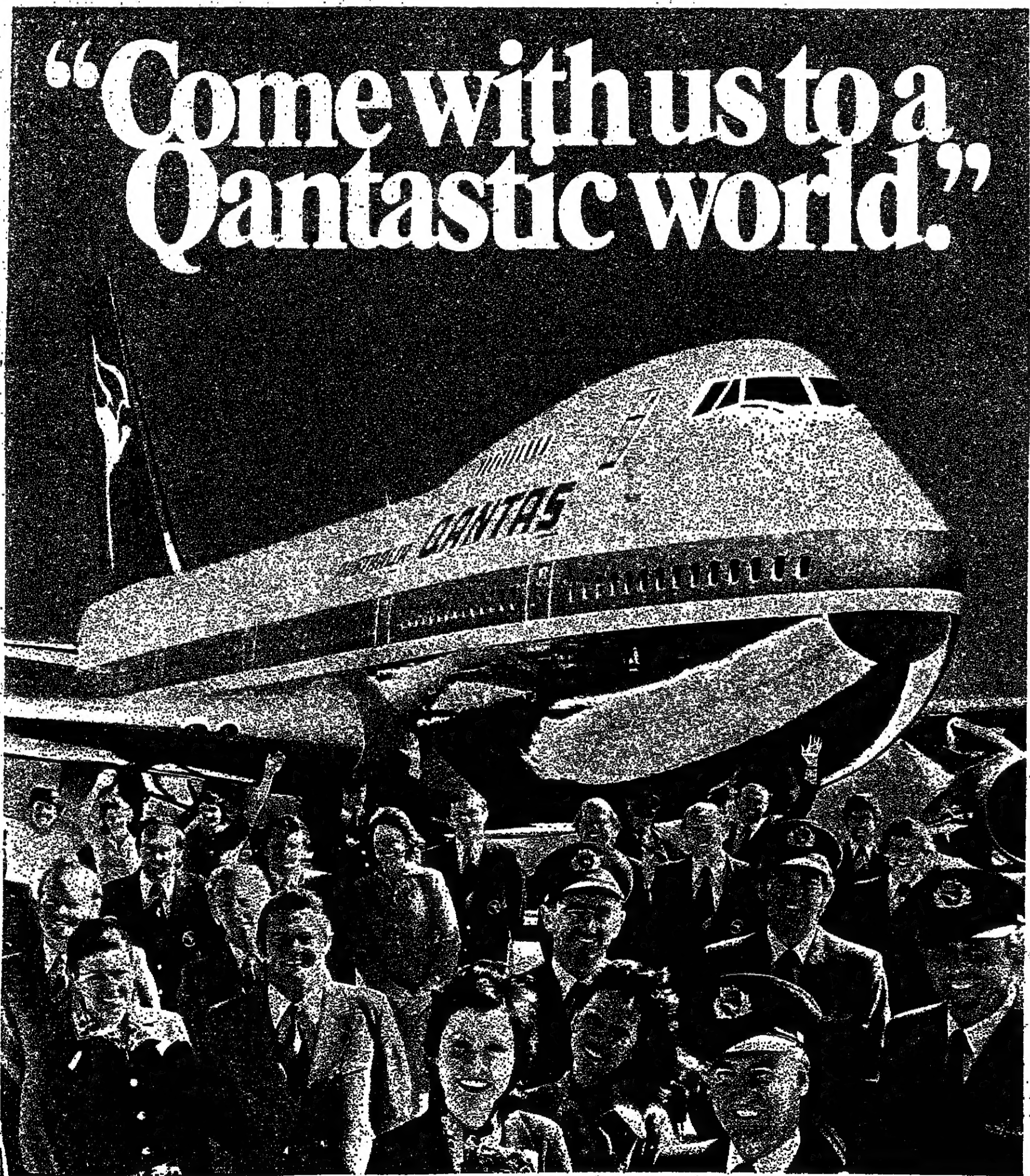
Attacking Ugandans who had fled into exile since he came to power, he said that they were collaborating with imperialists.

When they realized the futility of their actions, and eventually decided to return to Uganda, they would be told that their places had been taken by young Ugandans who are prepared to die for their country.

Dr. Robert Gardner, until recently executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who spoke at the ceremony, praised Makerere's achievements as a pioneer among African universities.

These were largely due to the foresight of the colonial administrators and others, long before Uganda and other African countries became independent. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the many individuals who rendered service to Africa and to mankind beyond the needs of duty", he said.

The main anniversary celebrations on Independence Day tomorrow will be held at Moroto in north-east Uganda. President Amin plans to hold them in a different centre each year.



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BOOKS

Fiction

Jacky Gillott on a vintage Bellow

Humboldt's Gift

By Saul Bellow

(The Allison Press/Secker & Warburg, £4.90)

Here in the wake of Henderson, Herzog and Sammler comes Charlie Citrine, scintillating, worrying out the soul beyond the flesh.

Charlie Citrine is a well-known Jewish academic and writer. If Bellow's heroes vary only marginally, it's to feel it matters much. The vitality invested in the creation of their ideas and experiences makes each successive figure—for all the immediate familiarity of outline—a work of virtuosity rather than limitation.

Citrine, who has known success, is slowly pauperized by crooks, friends, lovers and his ex-wife in the course of the book. Their litigious suckling away of his wealth troubles him far less than the fury his material success once roused in Humboldt, a manic poet and early mentor whose wild, exciting friendship ceased when Citrine "betrayed" him by having a hit on Broadway.

At the beginning of the book Citrine learns that Humboldt has died in a flophouse leaving him a legacy. The news sharpens Citrine's already obsessive contemplation on the nature of death and the whereabouts of the body's soul. The soul is somewhere, lurking, awaiting rediscovery by men who have shrugged off its being and embraced the disorientation of a rational existence. Rationality characterizes the modern in-

tellectual. Citrine wants poets. He water the heights and depths he once saw in Humboldt before pills and failure got him. So he meditates. He stands on his head. He rails at those for whom the poet is "a school thing, a skirt thing, a church thing... poets are loved but loved because they just can't make it here".

Bellow has always presented two powerful aspects of himself in his books which amount to a philosopher's contemptuous despair for the modern world and a novelist's "idiot joy" in the complexity of his own species. Although he has always pursued both aspects with breathtaking brilliance, although the conflict—between exhortation and celebration—is the source of his energy as a writer, his division has occasionally led to an unevenness of structure.

The great quality of *Humboldt's Gift* lies in the honesty with which (through Citrine) he confesses this division and the skill whereby he marries the separation of physical and spiritual within the comic images of the action. By an ironic coupling of the relish and the wrath, Bellow has revealed his central questing figure as the Fool. He is a man driven to voicing wisdoms nobody can factum. More importantly, he is a man whose own insights so remove him from the general perception of humankind he is of as little help to himself as he is to them. Knowing so much about life he is ridiculously ignorant in his operation of it. Citrine's harassing ex-wife is more expert in his assessment of him than he is

himself. Renata, his voluptuous, booky girl friend, leaves him to marry an undertaker, a man whose rival attitude towards death is pragmatic in the extreme. In her farewell letter to him she writes: "You should be as tolerant towards undertakers as I am towards intellectuals... You work, you get bread, you lose a leg, kiss some fellows, have a baby... But you don't spend years trying to dope your way out of the human condition. To me, that's boring."

When Citrine finally discovers the nature of Humboldt's legacy, it seems that the old poet has moved closer to Renata's position. A blurred and laughing voice from the grave virtually advises him to buy life as it is. Certainly Bellow the narrator finds it hard to resist the confounding pleasure he finds in life as it is. His characters are the creatures of an exuberant eye. The more mad and corrupt they are (the more the philosopher would damn them), the more the novelist loves them. One of them indeed is cast in precisely this Sannicely tempting role—a wonderful, third-rate mafioso called Rinaldo Cantabile who scales the heights of happiness by threatening people and what his gun about. Citrine is his friend, his partner, his developer brother Ulick (ready for business two days after open-heart surgery) because "their desires might be low but they were pursued in full consciousness."

The writing in *Humboldt's Gift* is of a very high order indeed. Sharp, erudite, beautifully measured and richly



Saul Bellow

funny, it perfectly contains the paradoxical character of the book. In the closing passage it is so delicately employed there is no knowing whether the two states of mind have been genuinely resolved or not. Having raised the money to exhumate Humboldt and bury him decently, Citrine is horrified by a new graverdigger's innovation, a complex machine that lowers a slab of concrete on the coffin weighing it down, sealing it off from the soil.

Thus the condensation of collective intelligences and combined ingenuities, its cables silently spinning, deal with the individual poet. The fall of the sentence strikes me as rueful rather than bitter as if the mockery of life must extend to his difficulties in concentrating when saying his prayers, difficulty encountered by all of us who are professing Christians who do not lead spiritual lives in the cloisters.

Surprisingly, for an emotional man he is ashamed of crying in public, which he has done more than once, and which he describes as "a silly habit which I have always despised". Laughter and tears are human reactions. There is nothing shameful about a man who sheds his tears. Elizabeths shed theirs frequently and so did Sir Winston Churchill often cried in public without anybody questioning his moral

Intimate matters

The Door Wherein I Went

By Lord Hailsham

(Collins, £4.95)

So, find Lord Hailsham lovely, others find him infuriating, some even find him repugnant. I find him wholly lovable and to some extent infuriating and to some extent repugnant.

This is a strange book; Lord Hailsham continually states that it is not an autobiography, yet it is so described by his publisher. Lord Hailsham is a specialist in philosophy and the contents of the book cover philosophy and religion. Lord Hailsham calls himself, rightly, a specialist in philosophy and the contents of the book cover philosophy and religion. Lord Hailsham calls himself, rightly, a specialist in philosophy and the contents of the book cover philosophy and religion.

The biographical portions of the book are infinitely inferior in style, clarity and elegance as compared with the first half. His reputation is such that he writes "As I said" or "As I say" at least 30 times when, out of sheer irritation I stopped counting. He is clearly embarrassed at writing about intimate matters. This discomfort even extends to his description of his difficulties in concentrating when saying his prayers, difficulty encountered by all of us who are professing Christians who do not lead spiritual lives in the cloisters.

Surprisingly, for an emotional man he is ashamed of crying in public, which he has done more than once, and which he describes as "a silly habit which I have always despised". Laughter and tears are human reactions. There is nothing shameful about a man who sheds his tears. Elizabeths shed theirs frequently and so did Sir Winston Churchill often cried in public without anybody questioning his moral

courage and physical bravery. I doubt whether an audience (including myself) moved to tears as happened on the occasion of Quintin's unforgettable speech at the CPC meeting at the 1957 Conservative Party Conference, by a man who is himself arid.

In his chapter on his failure to become Prime Minister in 1963, he states that, since 1928 (when his father became a hereditary Peer), it had always been his intention to renounce his peerage if the law were ever to permit this. Yet in July 1963 when he went to Moscow to sign the Test Ban Treaty he says that he cannot remember whether the vital amendment allowing existing Peers to renounce had been carried and "I am not going to verify the references". At this point the reader must protest. Why should he not verify the references? At this point the reader must protest. Why should he not verify the references?

Quintin states many times that his ambition was always to be a judge. He would not, in my view, have made a good judge because he is not primarily a judicious person. His most successful period in office was between 1957 and 1959 when he was Lord President of the Council and Chairman of the Conservative Party. Quintin is right to say that Macmillan could not have won the 1959 General Election without his own outstanding qualities as a communicator and leader of men. He is probably also right to imply that Prime Ministerial jealousy caused his removal from these posts when the election had safely been won.

I am greatly saddened at his statement. "While I was in the running (for the leadership) I was assailed and attacked on every conceivable ground... as if I had done something incredible". I am even more sad to learn that he still expects to see me when he returns to the country, and that the shock was and remains such that he writes poetry no more. No man in British public life has higher standards or possesses greater honour than Quintin Ross.

Humphry Berkeley

Edward Heath on thrills in No 10

Vote to Kill

By Douglas Hurd

(Collins, £3.50)

There are three kinds of political novel. The main objective of the first is to convey a political or social message. The second attempts to recount—and sometimes to fill in—political history in human, and often imaginative, terms. In the third the reader is left to be entertained with a good story, told against an authentic political background, which he has to judge on its own merits as a creative achievement.

It will come as no surprise to admirers of the three earlier novels in which Douglas Hurd partnered Andrew Osmond that *Vote to Kill* fits admirably into the last category. Beautifully written, the atmosphere at Number 10 well conveyed, at times amusingly topical, at others concentrating on the very much on the characters of the main actors, this book provided me with immense enjoyment. Once started it was impossible to put down and I finished it at a sitting—can there be any greater compili-

ment? Perhaps I should say I devoured it between meals on the plane to Hongkong, the scene of *The Smile on the Face of the Tiger*, a previous joint venture. *Vote to Kill* is an excellent example of its genre. It should certainly be a success.

The run of events after an aged party leader wins a general election with a small majority provides Douglas Hurd with the opportunity of using his own experience as Political Secretary at Number 10 to depict the sort of situations the new Prime Minister finds himself facing. Through them all runs the theme of Northern Ireland—one of the past but of the possible future two or three years hence. There is plenty of scope here for divisions within the Cabinet and for the Secretary of State to develop his opportunity and choose his moment for resignation. It is the emotional content of the theme which gives the young demagogue his chance to attract vast crowds and also force the issue.

He is brilliantly portrayed and his tactics will be recognizable to every politician—though never yet have we seen, certainly not since the end of the

Second World War, an open air meeting staged as it is described here. That is not to say that the time might not come! However, it has the effect of driving the young Political Secretary to seek selection as a parliamentary candidate and culminates in the Prime Minister putting the issue to the country.

The outcome I must leave to the reader to discover for himself. If in the course of pursuing this fast-moving story he seeks to identify particular characters with contemporary political personalities, I fear he will be disappointed. On the other hand, if he has any acquaintance with the politics of the last quarter of a century, he will be reminded of a number of situations which are relevant and he will be struck by the accuracy in seeing them worked so neatly into this tale.

Will a colleague do more damage inside or outside the government? How do civil servants and outsiders get on together? What does a Prime Minister do about the embarrassments his family cause him? And all the discussions that go on about an overseas visit, and the cover up about



Douglas Hurd

the Prime Minister's declining health, and the problem of a leak of government information and that damaging sentence that appears unexpectedly in an otherwise innocuous independent report—how can all these be handled?

Much of the pleasure to be derived from this attractive novel comes from the wry and detached account Douglas Hurd gives of human frailty in politics and of the personal courage and strength with which others respond to events.

Ion Trewin

On the up and up

Distractions

By Stanley Middleton

(Hutchinson, £3.75)

Sweet William

By Beryl Bainbridge

(Duckworth, £2.95)

Stanley Middleton has gone up in his world since he won jointly last year's Booker Prize. The Middlemills are as before, but I don't recall the moneyed upper middle, even aristocratic classes taking stage centre in his earlier novels. To my mind, in *Distractions*, he succeeds as triumphantly as in the past.

His title is perfect in retrospect, a typically Middleton quality when one looks back at his past work: *Wages of Virtue*, *Holiday*, *Cold Graduation* among them. His characters, as always, are mainly shades of grey; unspectacular, they burn and fizzle like an expensive firework, ever surprising with new lights and facets just when you think there is no more.

Middleton begins with a

shake of the kaleidoscope. Characters spend the novel reacting to their new situations. Edward Fielding is a smooth and successful businessman, with a mad wife. Did the comic suicide because he deserted her for Hilda, cool and intelligent and divorced from Alan, a patetic music teacher, a singer who still wants her back? The second generation has learnt nothing: guilt and conscience know no class barriers.

Edward's son Jeremy, having taken a mistress, worries whether she should be packed back to her husband and if he should quit his studies for the family firm.

There is a minimum of plot, little humour, yet Middleton can strike an image like an artist with a single brushstroke. Reading his novels one knows he is inside his characters, delving into their minds: some tick honestly revealing all, others hold back even from themselves. His work never issues with a splash, it will never be fashionable, but there are only a handful of English novelists who have his feel for people and so consistently in the good.

Beryl Bainbridge has never

done anything better. *Sweet William* shows an economy, a maturity of style that wholly justifies the praise poured on her three previous novels.

Here is a simple, cautionary tale, straightforwardly told, of Ann, a provincial girl in London, who respects her prudish parents in Brighton, works at the BBC, lives in Hampstead, and is engaged, in a lethargic way, to being married. That is the same as comes along. The contrast could hardly be greater: he's a bourgeois playboy who picks her up—in the nicest possible way—outside a church hall and in a trice has moved into her genteel flat. William is ardent. Ann is whisked off her feet, he cares when she becomes pregnant, but is unconcerned.

Constancy, however, is a word unknown in William's vocabulary. Ann and the reader gradually discover the queue of women in his life: Sheila, Edna, even Pamela, Ann's cousin. He is unreliable, disappearing mysteriously, lying about where he's been, yet Miss Bainbridge doesn't paint him all black: he has a delightful

streak of eccentricity, lavishing telegrams, flowers and presents. He means every endearment, the praise poured on her three previous novels.

Flashman in the Great Game, by George Macdonald Fraser (Barrie & Jenkins, £3.95). The fifth in the saga and the best since volume one, *Flashy* is back in India (in time for the mutiny) on a secret mission for Queen and Palmerston. The most decorated coward in Her Majesty's service wins everything going, including the ducal and delectable Lakshmi Maharani of Jhansi. Fraser, as always, is in full control of the period and his material. His confidence in his creation increases with every volume as does his impudence, even to the extent of lifting one of William Russell's of *The Times* tales from Lucknow. Footnotes and references add verisimilitude to a series that is rapidly becoming part of nineteenth century British history.

Poetry

Anthony Howell's *Ode: A Cantata* (Ode & Boyars, £3.50) is just the sort of book that never gets reviewed. It is a prose poem, the fiction reviewers can be excused for ignoring it, but the same can be said of the poem in its entirety. The most unfashionable in English literature, so the poetry reviewers are likely to pass over this text pretty quickly too, search of something that will accommodate their wits more comfortably, something that reminds them of something else. *Ode* reminds me of nothing else. It is itself. It is an erotic text, a celebration of the human body. You could say it is a kind of modern counterpart to the Song of Songs, but that sounds pretentious and in fact Mr Howell's approach is severely simple. He takes sexual acts and makes a litany of them. Because he is intelligently aware of the distance between those acts and what they are at best intended to express his writing is not pornographic, although it might shock readers who are shocked by (say) Rochester. It is not my intention to dismiss that shock. Being shocked is a proper response, though not a very full one. Recovered from the shock, the patient puritan might still take pleasure in Mr Howell's wonderfully sensitive and

rhythmic writing, as well as in the discipline which has derived those rhythms from the patterns of the stone sculptures in the Vigeland Park in Norway's capital. Photographs of these sculptures illustrate the text, and the result is a beautifully coherent frieze of words and images.

Describing it, I have made *Ode* itself descriptive. That is misleading. Mr Howell's writing has been to school to Gertrude Stein, and he makes every noun and verb work for its keep. He uses some of Stein's techniques, applying to the subject matter which should prove more popular than most of hers. I joke when I say "popular". This excellent little book is not going to win Mr Howell a wide audience, but it deserves to be read by a number of that small appreciative audience who already know him for *Inside the Castle* (1969) and *Invited* (1971), and I venture to predict that in due course a lot of readers will wonder how they missed the emergence of this very talented young man.

Lawrence Durrell once wrote a poem about the Greek poet C. P. Cavafy, in which he commended him for "no cant about the sordidness of man". Mr Durrell, who has a better knowledge of the originals than I have, is already in good use of approval of the English versions by Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard in C. P. Cavafy: *Collected Poems* (Chatto & Windus, 1971). It falls to me only to report that the book includes

174 poems and that most of them read splendidly well. Just that mixture of hedonism and disillusion which Cavafy made synonymous with his name. There are helpful notes at the back, by George Savidia, who draws attention to subtleties of metrical arrangement as well as explaining Cavafy's mythological and historical allusions—no trivial thing, this, with a poet whose world was the Byzantine Empire as well as modern Alexandria.

The Australian poet Peter Porter has some of the same hedonism, and the new work he has collected in *Living in a Calm Country* (Oxford, £1.50) shows him at the height of his powers, writing easily and wittily and well about England and Australia, music and painting, dreams, the inner life of the middle-ages to the modern. I use that last phrase deliberately, for it contains exactly the kind of irony that characterizes Mr Porter's view of things. He begins a poem, called "To Make It Real":

After having written verses in tight
corsets,
verses inspired by German
Ideas
and random, thin, self-justifying
verses,
I feel the need to trap a piece of
real.

He gets closest to trapping his piece of real in the more tightly structured stanzas. The title poem (whose "country" is the human body, not a bit of geography) is one of his best, intelligent and full of feeling. If there are more like that to

come, then Mr Porter has not yet reached the height of his powers. Despite the fact that he has been some 20 years in England, incidentally, his work still has to my ear an authentic Australian accent and emphasis. Consider that phrase above: "a piece of real".

Finally, I regret the passing of the magazine *Phoenix* (8 Cavendish Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, 75p). The editor of this magazine, Harry Chambers, has high standards, and printed work of outstanding quality, while struggling all the while on an annual grant quite incommensurate with what was required. In the past, Chambers was responsible for publishing in pamphlet form the work of Stanley Cook. Cook has good poems in the final *Phoenix*, which also contains work by Kenneth Allott, Alan Brownjohn, Gavin Ewart, Seamus Heaney, Norman Nicholson, Peter Scupham and several others, and an interesting set of facsimile worksheets of poems by Fleur Adcock, Tony Harrison, Michael Longley, Edwin Morgan, William Stafford, Andrew Waterman and some of the poets already mentioned as contributors. It seems a pity that a magazine as wholly dedicated to new poetry as this one should go to the wall while flashier productions flourish on big Arts Council grants.

Robert Nye

HOMES and gardens

and Robert Carrier

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Shopping/John Groser



Brilliant Savarin, so we are told, liked his pheasants well hung. He also insisted on taking his wine in proper vessels which, I assume, meant English crystal—for in those days it was unrivalled for quality. Now, of course, there are rivals (principally in France and America) but my survey of English (and I have included Irish and Scottish in this—no bombs please) has revealed a marvellous variety of crystal drinking vessels.

Four of the principal manufacturers display some of their wares in the photograph. On the extreme left is this magnificent hand-made goblet in the style of George I. It was created by Royal Brierley especially for Mr Eric Asprey and is available, exclusively, from Asprey of Bond Street. It costs £15.50. Royal Brierley make many other, less exclusive, glasses and their catalogue is available from Royal Brierley Crystal Glassworks, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire.

Second from the left is the tulip pattern wine goblet by Tudor Crystal. It costs £4.30 and again is but one example from a large range by Tudor Crystal Glass, Stourbridge, Worcestershire. Next comes the Glencoe goblet at £6.50 from Stuart Crystal. The Stuart Crystal Glass Company is also in Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

On the extreme right is the very handsome Royal Yacht pattern designed for the use of King Edward VII aboard the then Royal Yacht. It costs £9.10 and is one of many from Thomas Webb and Co, who are also (surprise, surprise) in Stourbridge. All these glasses and many more can be seen in Asprey's Top Table Room and I am grateful to that company for the loan of the crystal for the photograph.

Sadly, there is insufficient space to illustrate the many other fine examples of English glass I have seen and handled in the past few weeks. I particularly liked the Thistle pattern glasses (around £8) from Edinburgh Crystal Glass Co, Eastfield, Pentlands, Midlothian. Webb Corbett (now part of Royal Doulton) have a truly majestic pattern wine glass at £5.50. Royal Doulton Ltd, PO Box 301, Stoke-on-Trent. Another major group, Wedgwood, have acquired a factory in Galway and, I gather, mean to go into glass in a big way. Abraham and Co, of Gutteridge, will also send you their catalogue.

Whitefriars have a new range called Elstree (£3 for the large wine) which is both elegant and traditionally modern (no, I am not Mrs Malspro). Whitefriars Glass Ltd, Tudor Road, Westborough, Harrow, Middlesex, is the address of this company.

Not wishing to upset the nationalists among you, I must make mention also of Strathern Glass Ltd, Crieff, Perthshire; of Calhoun Glass Ltd, Wick, Caithness (for some very smart modern glasses); and of Waterford Crystal (very traditional) at Waterford, Eire.

Last, but by no means least, I come to Darrington. I mean no disrespect to the other manufacturers when I say that for several years I have used Darrington glasses at home and each new pattern seems more beautiful than the one before. You, no doubt, remember Beau Ball.

Darrington are about to introduce (and why should they not sabre rattle a little?) a brand new range called Britannia. These simple, modern, clear glasses are in three sizes, the wine goblet costing £1.45. When I bought the Sharon range almost two years ago, I thought it would not be possible to find a more attractive drinking vessel. Well, with Britannia I have, or at least I will when they go on sale. These glasses are "proper" as Brillat might have said. By the way, I also like my pheasants well hung.

Photographs by Trevor Sutton

Let us, said the femme fatale the other day, do things more with our hands. The syntax I ask you to ignore (after all she is Swedish) and the sentiment (you must believe) was entirely honourable for she was fingerling at the time an excellent new set of paperbacks in the Pan Craft books series.

The four new titles are *Gifts, Furniture Making, Home Decoration and Children's Clothes*. Each book is extensively illustrated with photographs, drawings and diagrams. Instructions are detailed and easy to follow. The *femme fatale* wants to make a "bunk bed" (what ever that might mean) as well as a "name tag" along with a "mini-pull cover-up" in a "newly decorated nursery".

Yes, I am beginning to get the message as well. Perhaps I will have to take a lengthy sabbatical in some distant super-market. The Pan books are real value at £1 each and are on sale pretty well everywhere. In case of difficulty: Pan Books Ltd, Cavaye Place, London SW10 9PC.

Gifts to Make is the new contribution from Collins in their Better Homes series. It is in hardback and costs £2.50. Again, W1.

it is beautifully illustrated and has a special chapter on "children's projects". Collins are at 14 St James's Place, London SW1, though the book is bound to be in your local bookseller's. Dressed in my "mini pini", I read with interest the new *Egon Ronay's Guide to the Best in Freezing—including Whose Brands to Buy and Dinner Parties*. Irrespective of the title, for £1.30 you see the results of tests on 192 branded foods tasted by the Egon Ronay team.

Many frozen food items have been rated below the line of acceptability and the panel believes that some products simply do not lend themselves to freezing (for example, chips). The guide is prettily illustrated and also contains information about the costs, the mechanics and the preparation of meals that have come out of the freezer.

If you are into freezer fun (personally, I am not) the guide will be of great help. I certainly have not seen so comprehensive or helpful a book on the subject of frozen foods. The guide is published by WHS Distributors, 18 Old Compton Street, London, WC2.

Currently on display at the Design Centre (28 Raymarket, London, SW1Y 4SU) is "puzzles and toys for Christmas". The theme this year is jigsaw puzzles and the exhibition lasts until next January 3.

There are some great gift ideas there and I was taken with the cuddly hedgehog family in brown fur fabric. There are also a fluffy old English sheepdog and a baby donkey. The cutest hedgehog costs £1.20 and the big bunch dog £31.

If you cannot get to the Design Centre and do not want to send for their gifts by post catalogue (which I mentioned in my last column) try Toys By Post from Tridias. The organization consists of three elements—retail shops, a modest manufacturing business and the postal catalogue. The shops are at: 8 Saville Row, Barb, BA1 2QP; 44 Monmouth Street, London, WC2; 10/12 Clarendon Avenue, Leamington Spa; and 6 Lichfield Terrace, Richmond, Surrey.

The Tridias catalogue is available (price 15p) from the Bath address. It lists postage and packing charges and is well illustrated. The cheapest toy costs 1p—for a black plastic spider. There is also a 1p black plastic fly.

Why ice buckets should be seasonal, I know not. But suddenly I am being showered with the aforementioned receptacles on all sides. As you know, I would much sooner be showered with the goodies that go in them—no, I do not mean ice cubes and water.

That said, and if you feel that an ice bucket is your man's sort of thing, I commend to you two ideas. Unrose (you remember, for the morning after, last she forgot) are offering "champagne on ice"—the gift that can be delivered anywhere in Central London. It comprises a bottle of non-vintage Veuve Clicquot on ice in a bucket. It costs £9.80 and the object of your desire gets to keep the ice bucket. This will no doubt generate a new form of social snobbery in Belgravia—"But darling, Clement has 37 ice buckets from Unrose".

Orders can be telephoned to Unrose at 01-727 3922 or you can write to 186 Campden Hill Road, London, W8 7TH, and

Unrose will make the necessary arrangements to deliver the gift with your message at the right place and at the right time.

If the object of your desires is likely to be dissatisfied with only one bottle, then Layton, the wine shippers, offer a seal whereby you can give him three bottles plus an ice bucket (but alas no ice) for only £10. This champagne is non-vintage Canard Duchene (which is not widely known here but is very popular in France. I got to know it at the European Parliament in Strasbourg—but that is another story).

The only snag is that if you go direct to Laytons, they will make you buy at least four a lot packs. So you need four fellers and £40 to start with. But they also supply through the trade and will tell you where to go locally. Laytons are at 11 Gough Square, London, EC4 3JJ (01-353 2885). This gift idea is aimed at the Christmas market and will not be available until next week.

Nine Artists is an exhibition of contemporary paintings now being shown at the Belgrave Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, London, SW1. I really liked some of the paintings there and most of them must, surely, represent sound investments. Prices vary as much as the styles, but I was greatly taken with the work of a young Rhodesian called Peter Grey.

About from the paintings now being exhibited (from £250 to £500). Peter Grey has some excellent lithographs as well as water colours of striking outcrops of nature in South Africa. He thinks his oils are perhaps influenced by Goya. I detected a distinct touch of the Turners.

Peter Grey is an artist who believes that he must communicate through his work. Accordingly (although he cannot yet afford to be) he is choosy about commissions. This is his first London showing, though he has exhibited both in Rhodesia and South Africa. *Nine Artists* continues until October 15.

MEET METHUEN'S NEW CHARACTER

HENRY THE ELEPHANT

Henry is a small grey elephant who tries to do everyday things which always end in disaster. Each of these four small, colourful picture-books is a complete easy-to-read story, ideal for the very young.

Henry's Exercises
Henry's Garden
Henry's Sunbath
Henry's Present
RODNEY PEPPE
25p each

For our catalogue and list of stockists, write to Methuen Children's Books, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE

Frankly, I shuddered when I was told that what I really needed was the new Toshiba Electronic Oven. It would, I was assured, get food from the deep freeze to the dinner table in minutes. As you know, I do not cook in a deep freeze (and Brillat must be turning in his grave).

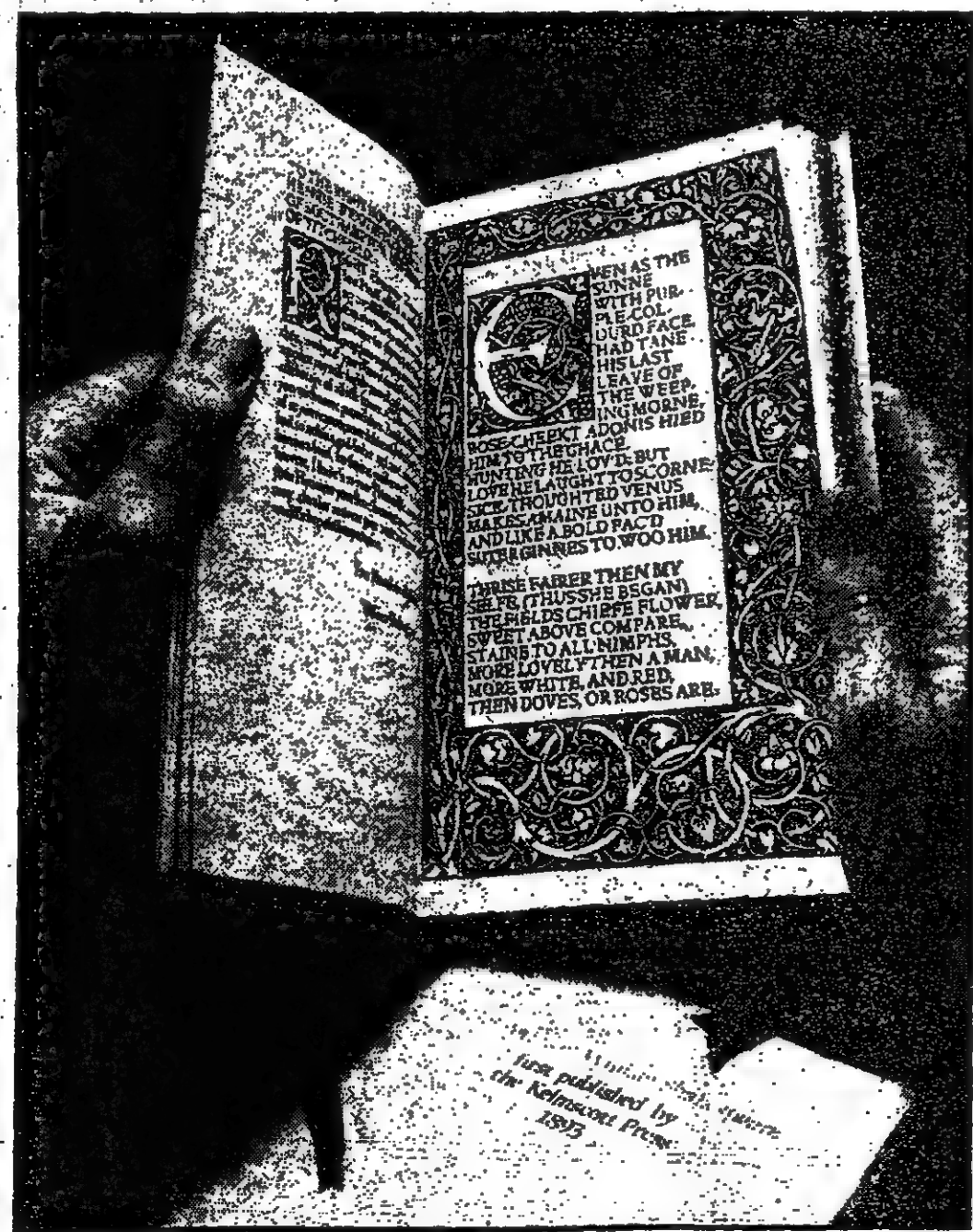
But then I thought "how selfish of me", for there must be lots of harassed housewives (not to mention husbands) who depend enormously on a deep freeze and for them the Toshiba could well be a boon.

The Toshiba Oven defrosts in minutes, drastically reduces cooking times and reheats food in seconds. Your actual jacket potato takes minutes, rather than hours, and your 4lb frozen chicken will be ready for carving in less than an hour. No direct heat is involved—light energy microwaves are generated and these are converted to "cook the food from inside".

The oven is cheap to run and takes up very little room on a kitchen work surface. It costs £265 and can be bought on a special loan plan (rent-to-own?) through Barclay MasterCard. For cash, you can purchase it from the many stockists whose names are available from Carair Developments Ltd, 189 Maiden Road, London, NW5.

Whether or not you like Shakespeare's Poems and Sonnets, if you care at all about beautiful things you are going to want to subscribe to one of the limited editions of the Poems being offered now by Paradise Reprints. The edition (100 numbered copies only for sale) is a facsimile of the 1893 Kelmscott Press publication of *The Poems of William Shakespeare*, in which William Morris (for the first time for 300 years) used the original spelling and also sought to set aside the mechanised mass production of his day in favour of the well-tried techniques of the leading hand printers of former times.

The story of Morris and the Kelmscott Press is too involved to tell now. Paradise Reprints have used red and black ink on specially made parchment substitutes together with the Morris typeface and the original spelling. Each copy is to be bound by hand in limp vellum with green silk ties, specially woven in France for the edition. The book has 240 pages and the price is £67.50 (which includes delivery and insurance). Binding on the limited edition will be carried out only against specific orders and delivery could therefore take about a month. The book is wonderful to hold and even better to read (if I may be serious for a moment). It is the most beautiful thing I have handled in all the time I have been writing this column. If the edition is fully subscribed before you manage to place your order, there is a cloth bound version which will sell for £8.25. A specimen copy can be seen and further enquiries made at: Paradise Reprints, Suite 15, Clarendon House, 32 Davies Street, London, W1V 1LG (01-629 3793).



Problem

BOBBLES IN THE GLOOM

In spite of rain and electronic gloom Londoners must have found something to celebrate last week—one had parties, everywhere—champagne, buffet, birthday, cocktail, Punch & Judy (but not political)—and that meant armies of waiters, butlers, cooks, washers up and taxis to get people home again at all hours of day and night. And of course we had the usual autumn problem of blooded outlets, taking fairs etc. If you're just a practical Problem in London, we usually get a practical and civilized solution, John Problem. Send for our leaflet to 179 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1, or ring

01-828 8181

Dynatron—the expression of traditional values

Every colour television and audio unit is a unique blend of the age-old skills of the cabinet maker and the expertise of the modern electronics engineer.

Shown here is a selection of contemporary style cabinets, in true Dynatron style, reflecting the timeless simplicity of the Scandinavian line.

Technically, colour televisions, tuner/amplifiers, record playing units, cassette tape decks and matching loudspeakers are all built to the highest standards and specifications.

Dynatron is for the discerning. Those people who in a throw-away society still have their standards right.

To really understand what we mean by "traditional values", call at your Authorised Dynatron dealer—or post the coupon for brochures to see the complete range—in both traditional and contemporary styles.

To Dynatron Radio Ltd, Dept. T2
Ditton Walk, Cambridge CB5 8QD
Please send me the Dynatron Audio and TV range brochures.

Name: _____

Address: _____



DYNATRON
The first name in beautiful reproduction
Dynatron Radio Limited
Ditton Walk, Cambridge CB5 8QD



PHS

Your ten minute guide to the truck business.

A Ford holiday with a C.I. Travelhome starts the moment you wave goodbye to your garden gate. All the independence of the camper without dependence on the weather.

This Ford 'D' Series tandem combines the payload of a 16-ton 4-wheel rigid truck with a large loading latitude to cater for unusual weight distribution.

Some of the largest coach and bus companies build on the Ford 'R' Series chassis because it's light yet strong, reliable and easy to service. And the front-mounted turbo-charged engine is both quiet and economical. Ford's name may not be on the front, but you'll still enjoy the smooth, easy Ford ride.

The 'A' series range of light trucks has been a best-seller since its introduction. A whole new category of trucks for which operators have discovered a whole new category of jobs without the need for an H.G.V. licence.

Britain's Road Research Laboratory uses Ford trucks and vans. This one flows with the traffic, whilst its special instruments measure road surfaces for skid resistance.

The new Ford Escort Light Van. One of the nippiest commercial vehicles on the road.

This is the big new Ford Transcontinental. So quiet inside you could talk in whispers. The seats are every bit as comfortable as the optional bunk beds behind the driver. The new Ford Transcontinental is designed to carry the maximum legal weight virtually anywhere in Europe.

By carrying bigger loads further for longer, it reduces cost per mile for every ton on board. And by paying a deposit and using your Ford Truck Specialist Dealer's own Credit facilities, it's possible to pay instalments from earnings, so the truck is paid for in a few years for a capital outlay of a fraction of the cost. Or alternatively you can lease it.

From the Company whose business is trucks

If you look closely, you'll see that there isn't a single car on any of these pages.

Everything apart from the odd bicycle is a Ford Commercial Vehicle.

There is only room to give you the merest hint of the Ford-based range... the new Escort light van, the famous Transit, the relatively new 'A' Series vans and trucks, the big 'D' Series trucks, and the mighty new Transcontinental.

Ford sells more commercial vehicles than anyone else in Europe.

That's why you see so many on the roads, delivering most of the things we need every day in our homes.

As you will see, some companies add their own special bodies to the Ford chassis.

On the right you will see some important reasons why so many large companies choose Ford above all other commercial vehicles.

D 1211

How to crack the Ford 'D' Series code.

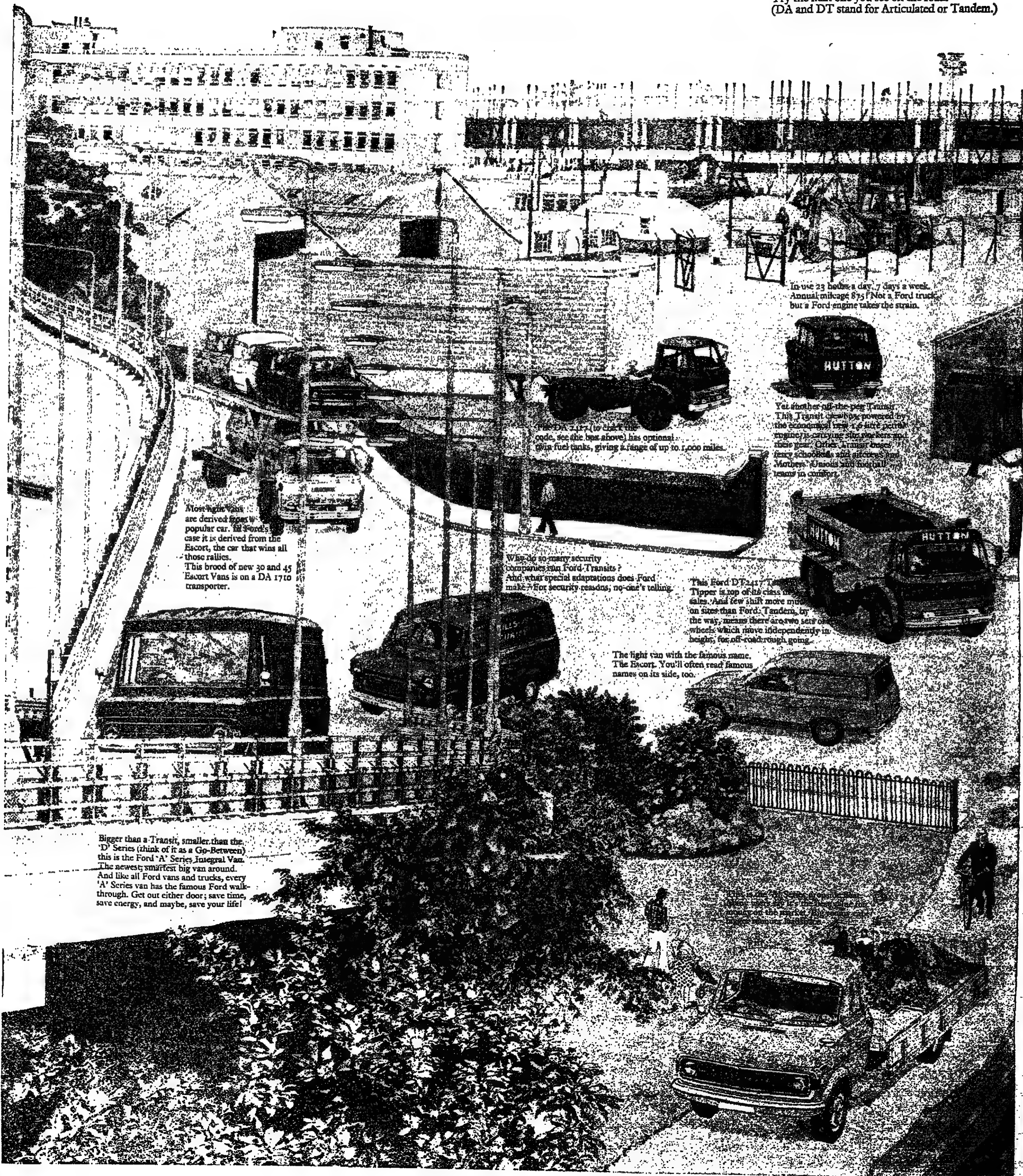
The first two numbers are gross vehicle weight (GVW) permissible for the model - that's the truck plus payload.

Second two numbers show power in brake horse power (BHP), once you've added a nought.

So D1211 is 12 tons GVW, 110 BHP.

Try the next one you see on the road.

(DA and DT stand for Articulated or Tandem.)



Most light vans are derived from a popular car. In Ford's case it is derived from the Escort, the car that wins all those rallies. This brood of new 30 and 45 Escort Vans is on a DA 1710 transporter.

The DA 1211 (to crack the code, see the box above) has optional twin fuel tanks, giving a range of up to 1,000 miles.

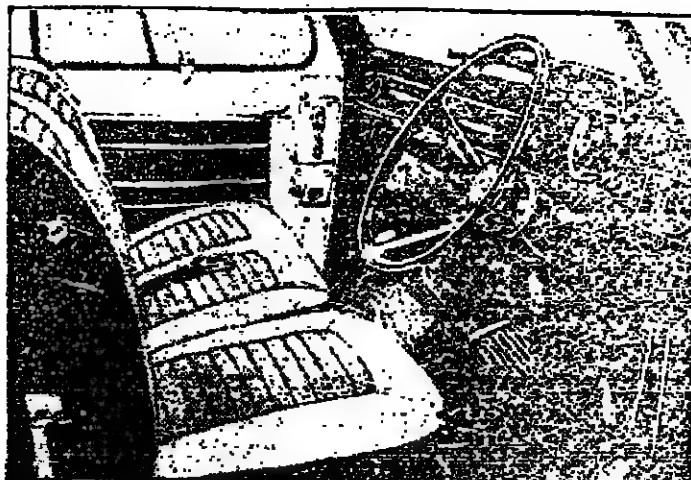
Why do so many security companies run Ford Transits? And what special adaptations does Ford make? For security reasons, no-one's telling.

This Ford D1211 Tipper is top of its class in sales. And few shift more mud on sites than Ford's Tandem, by the way, means there are two sets of wheels which move independently in height, for off-road rough going.

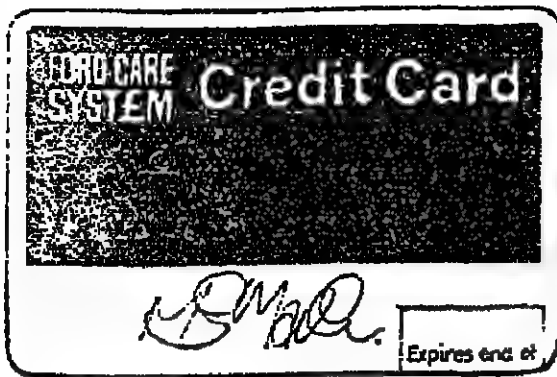
The light van with the famous name. The Escort. You'll often read famous names on its side, too.

Bigger than a Transit, smaller than the 'D' Series (think of it as a Go-Between) this is the Ford 'A' Series Integral Van. The newest, smartest big van around. And like all Ford vans and trucks, every 'A' Series van has the famous Ford walk-through. Get out either door; save time, save energy, and maybe, save your life!

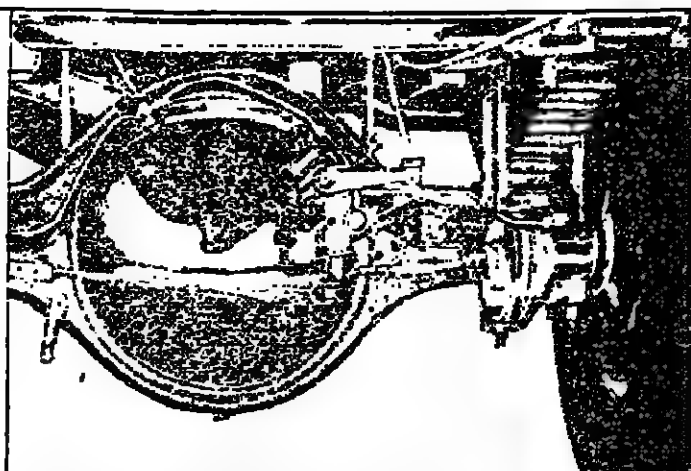
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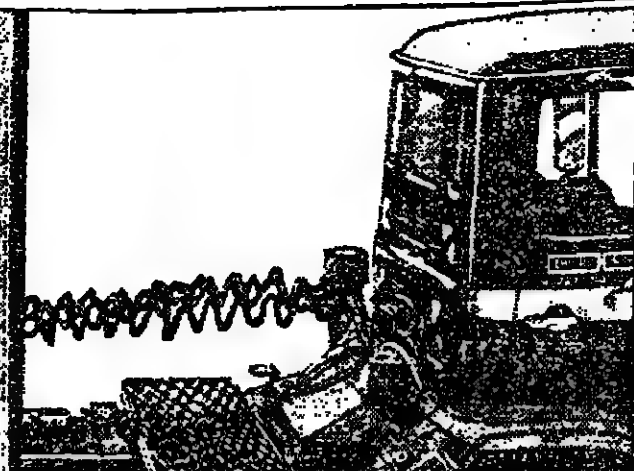
Cortina interior? No, this is the Custom Cab of a Ford Transit. Adjustable driver seat. Car level of instrumentation. Easy access. Ford knows driver comfort means driver efficiency.



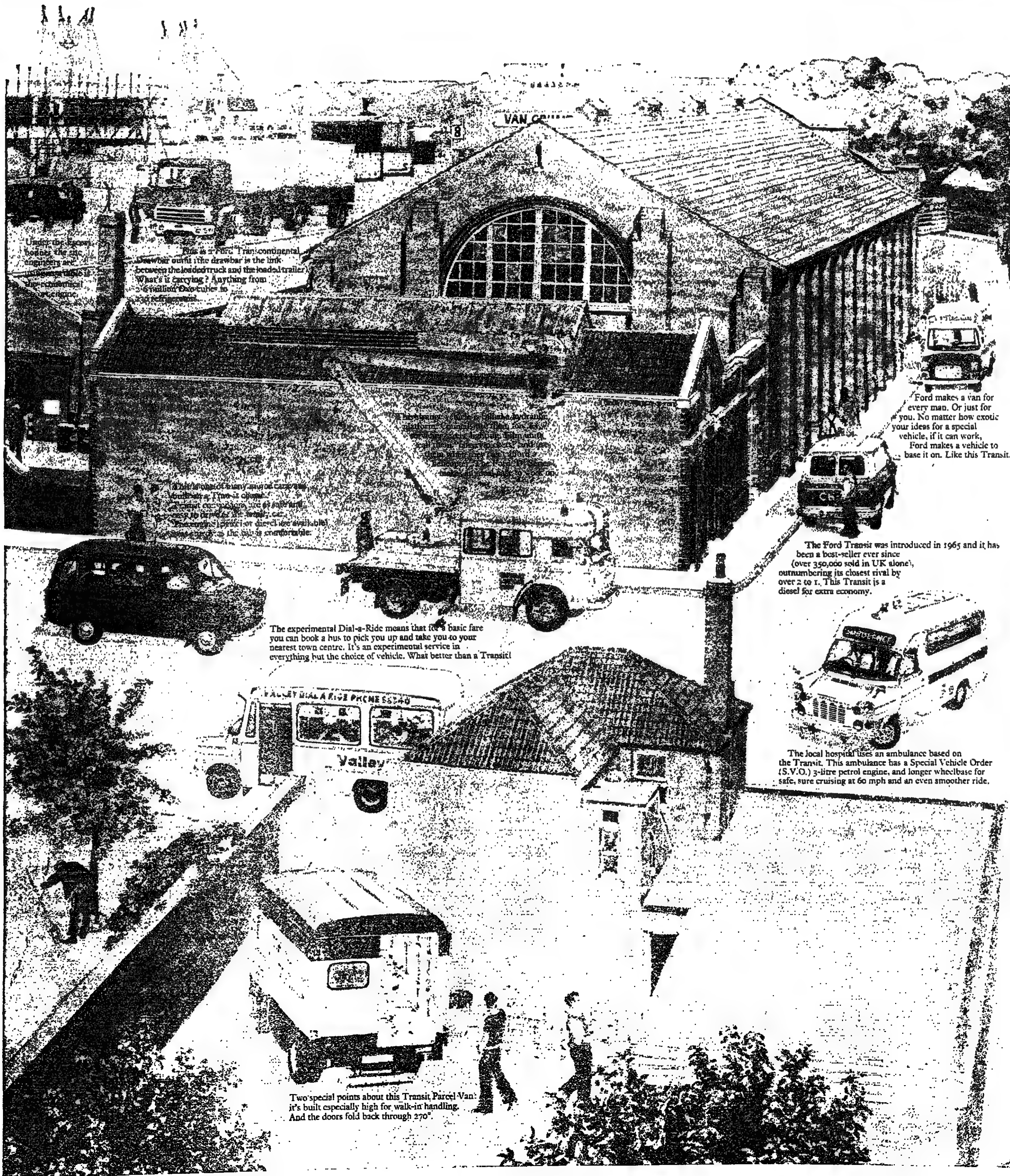
Every Ford Truck Specialist Dealer operating Ford Care will undertake urgent repairs or supply parts, etc., against this card. No need to carry emergency cash - no need for special authorisation when you're far from base.



This is a rear brake chamber on a Ford tipper. They're positioned *behind* the axle, to clear rocks and boulders on rough sites.



Four coloured "lines" are found on Ford articulated trucks to connect brakes and electrics from the cab to the trailer. Three are pipes to carry compressed air for normal, hand and emergency brake systems. The fourth is an electrical cable. They can be uncoupled, but they cannot be connected incorrectly.



This is a Ford Transcontinental. Drawbar outfit (the drawbar is the link between the loaded truck and the loaded trailer). What's it carrying? Anything from 20 million boxes to 20 refrigerators.

With the help of many special cars and vans, a Ford is often the best solution. Transit can be used in a wide range of ways. For example, it can be used as a delivery van, a bus, a truck, or a mobile office. It's a versatile vehicle that can be adapted to suit your needs.

The experimental Dial-a-Ride means that for a basic fare you can book a bus to pick you up and take you to your nearest town centre. It's an experimental service in everything but the choice of vehicle. What better than a Transit?

Ford makes a van for every man. Or just for you. No matter how exotic your ideas for a special vehicle, if it can work, Ford makes a vehicle to base it on. Like this Transit.

The Ford Transit was introduced in 1965 and it has been a best-seller ever since (over 350,000 sold in UK alone), outnumbering its closest rival by over 2 to 1. This Transit is a diesel for extra economy.

The local hospital uses an ambulance based on the Transit. This ambulance has a Special Vehicle Order (S.V.O.) 3-litre petrol engine, and longer wheelbase for safe, sure cruising at 60 mph and an even smoother ride.

Two special points about this Transit Parcel Van: it's built especially high for walk-in handling. And the doors fold back through 270°.

How to find out more.

If you are an owner-driver, the best man to see is your local Ford Truck Specialist Dealer (TSD). No manufacturer has more TSD's than Ford. No-one can show you a wider choice of commercial vehicles. And he can save you money. Because his only interest is trucks and vans, and how to make the best of them.

He will tell you frankly which vehicle you really need. Why buy a big 'D' Series van, if you would only need its loadspace twice a year? Much better to buy the 'A' Series integral van, and hire a 'D' on special occasions. Or why buy two Transits when one 'A' Series integral van will do the same amount of work?

The Ford Truck Specialist Dealer's job is to match the vehicle to your job, so he'll probably ask you far more questions than you'll ask him. If necessary, he will arrange a special body-building service.

As well as credit, and service, and everything else that goes with your business.

If you run a fleet, once again, the best man to see is your local Ford TSD.

The last thing he is, is a *small* businessman. Most TSD's have invested half a million pounds in their service, parts and sales facilities, and they can talk to you about cost-efficiency on your own level.

He can help rationalise your present fleet, and more than likely show you good reason why you would save money by letting him take over your fleet servicing with schemes like Contract Confidence. The flexible contract maintenance scheme that takes the worrying out of regular servicing and inspections, and can even predict your maintenance costs for up to a year ahead.

If you're the boss and all you do is pay the bills, and maybe you can't even change a tyre, you'll want to know different things.

You'll want to know about Ford Credit. Everybody has cash flow problems these days. While many people buy Ford Trucks and Vans for cash, maybe now you're better off staying liquid. You can do it by using your Ford Truck Specialist Dealer's Credit or Leasing plans.

You'll want to know what TSD's are like on parts. No-one keeps more spare parts on hand, no-one gets them fitted more quickly than Ford TSD's.

A commercial vehicle is a tool for making money. Day in, day out. We understand that better than anyone, except maybe you.

What we also understand better than anyone is why some transport fleets cost less to run than others.

One Ford innovation (sounds commonplace now) was keeping accurate records at the garage... clean, clear forms without grease marks on them.

Now, years later, we have F.O.C.A.S. (Ford Operating Cost Analysis System).

This is a unique Ford Service that lets you subscribe to a confidential monitoring system covering your entire fleet in minute detail.

Many national fleets, and some small ones, are F.O.C.A.S. subscribers already.

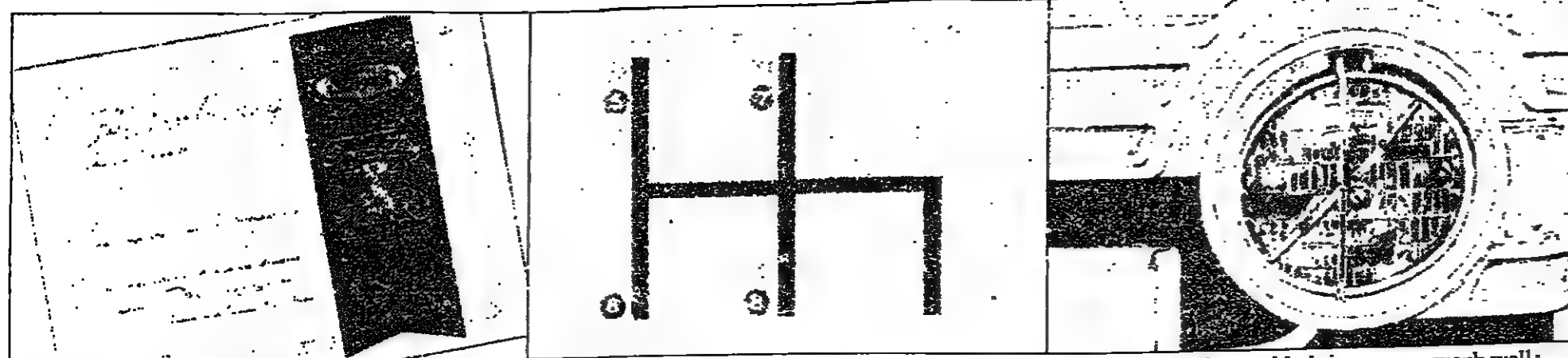
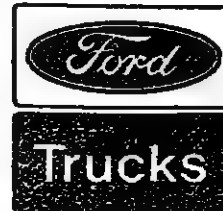
F.O.C.A.S. compares your history with that of comparable companies running fleets of Fords and other vehicles. The computer printouts isolate where and why you could be getting better value for each transport penny invested.

The man to telephone for more details is Peter Jenkins, F.O.C.A.S. Co-ordinator, at Brentwood (0277) 253000 Extn. 2907.

If you're a specialist (road builder, furniture remover, farmer, etc.) and you don't see what you need on these pages, ask your local TSD. He's in touch with bodywork specialists in every field, so he can talk to you with authority.

If you would like a wall-chart of this advertisement, please write to Ford Motor Company Ltd, 1/351 Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex.

There are more of them, because there's more to them.



Most technicians at a Ford TSD have one or more diplomas hanging proudly in the reception area. Diplomas they've earned at the Ford Training centre.

The bigger Ford 'D' Series trucks have eight-speed gear boxes. The new Ford Transcontinental can have up to 13 speeds, plus reverse.

Ford trucks go beyond helping a man work well: they make a professional feel proud. Standard on the new Ford Transcontinental and optional on the 'D' Series range, washwipe headlamps are an additional aid to visibility on motorway operations.

Ford is big in public service. Local councils collect refuse, fight fires, wash streets, etc., with bodies built on Ford chassis cabs.



This is a Ford TSD - Truck Specialist Dealer. TSD's deal in vans and trucks. Service vans and trucks. Concentrate on the van and truck business. Only Ford has such professional TSD's.

The famous Ford Weight-Watcher (Doron) is honed down to a trim 7.488 tonnes GVW. So the driver doesn't need a Heavy Goods Vehicle Licence.

Home may be hundreds of miles away for this big 'D' Series truck, but Ford service is always close. 147 Ford Truck Specialist Dealers cover major trunk routes and industrial centres. All operate emergency repair and breakdown services: some operate 24 hours a day.

This Ford Transit is collecting parts. Most Ford TSD's carry between £50,000 and £250,000 worth of parts. Special orders, from Ford's computerised parts warehouse, are turned around in an average 24 hours.

One man can tilt the cab of this DAX in minutes to leave the engine easily accessible. A Ford feature for economical servicing. The flat plate on the back called the "fifth wheel" never touches the road. It's the anchor for the trailer which is attached to the tractor, or prime mover, or what used to be called the mechanical horse. Once the trailer is attached, the unit becomes an articulated truck.

The Ford Transit is Britain's best-selling van; comes in over 200 door, window and body combinations from stock. This is the long wheelbase version.

هكذا من الاجل



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE HUMBUG OF THE TORIES

The question of electoral reform is a very difficult one for the Conservative Party. The present electoral system is obviously an unfair one; it grossly under-represents minority parties whose votes are spread throughout the country, and over-represents parties, like the Labour Party at present, who manage to meet just ahead in a three-party contest. The result is that it is possible for a government to have an outright majority on less than 40 per cent of the vote, or even with a smaller share of the vote than another party with less favourable distribution. To assert that our present system is fair is to assert that it is fair for the Conservative Party at the last election to have won twenty times as many seats as the Liberals with twice the vote. Relative to the Liberal vote, the Conservatives are times over-represented. They are humbug themselves into thinking that is fair, but they do not really expect to humbug anyone else who does not happen to be a beneficiary from this grotesque arrangement.

For this reason the arguments in favour of rejecting electoral reform at Blackpool had to be so vicious and dishonest and they indeed fulfil both those requirements. Yet the question of the Conservatives is more difficult than this. The question of electoral reform divides the

interest of the Conservative Party as a party from that of Conservative voters as conservatives. In the historic division between the Conservative interest and the conservative interest, we are on the side of the conservatives.

What does the Conservative Party want as a party? It wants power. Its members of Parliament want seats; its Shadow Cabinet want ministries and its leader wants to move into Downing Street. Conservative leaders want power for honourable motives, yet in order to obtain power the Conservative Party as a party can afford to alternate with a Labour Party which may come under increasingly militant left-wing influence. The present system of ins and outs preserves the monopoly of office for the outs as well as for the ins. It may not do so for ever, as the electorate becomes more resentful of the consecutive failures of both major parties, but it has done so up to now.

What does the conservative interest in the country require? It has not benefited all that much from the Conservative Party in office in recent years. It wants continuity of government; it wants the divisions in our society to be healed rather than inflamed by our political process; above all it wants to be sure that the wild men of the left cannot obtain the power that only a majority deserves without

actually having to get a majority. Our present system permits the Labour Party a comfortable parliamentary majority on less than 40 per cent of the vote, cast by less than 30 per cent of the electorate. That means that the most left-wing 20 per cent of the voters can, as last year, have a crucial influence on a government with full power. This is one of the reasons why Britain has become the most left-wing country and almost the poorest in the European Community. It is the principle of the holding company applied to politics: A controls B who controls C who controls D, so A controls D—and the A who seeks this control by remote means is determined to destroy the conservative interest in Britain.

In short the Conservative Party wants to keep our unfair electoral system in order to have an unfair share of power. The conservative interest wants a fair electoral system, to protect it against extremism, to be separated at one time from the interest of justice and the interest of your supporters is a dangerous as well as a disreputable situation to get yourself into. But what is most dangerous of all is that it reinforces the fear that the Conservative Party is no good at conserving; and if the Conservative Party is not there to conserve, what is it there for?

THE EMIGRATION OF DOCTORS

Doctors tend to move about the world more than most: their skills are universally in demand, their researches are an international effort and the rewards they can command vary widely from country to country. For many years the number of British-trained doctors going to work abroad has been larger than the number coming home again after a spell abroad, and the deficiency has been met by a net inflow of doctors trained mostly in Commonwealth countries. This equilibrium has very possibly been upset, and if it has the consequences for the health service are serious.

The evidence is strong enough to be disturbing, though it is still not conclusive. The figures are difficult to interpret and easy to turn into argumentative bludgeons. The latest official statistics on the emigration of doctors are a year old and indicate that things were not nearly as bad as they had been before—in the early sixties, in particular. They show a net annual outflow of 300 British-trained doctors—not quite a tenth of the annual output of the medical schools and only a tiny fraction of a profession with a strength of some 50,000.

But these figures date from before the crisis in the hospital service at the beginning of the year, and it is natural to suppose that matters have grown worse since then. Inquiries about work

abroad received by the British Medical Association and Australia House, and the number of doctors sitting the examination that they will need if they ever want to practise in the United States, all indicate a greatly increased interest in the possibility of emigration, but they fall short of proving a fixed intention. Many doctors take the American examination with nothing more in mind than a desire to keep their options open while their academic studies are still fresh in their minds (there are signs that the demand for doctors in the United States and Canada is in any case not as keen as it was). The BMA's figures suggest that the impulse to get out reached a high point during the hospital consultants' industrial action and has declined since the large pay award in April.

Two factors make the present problem rather different from what it has been in the past. The first is that the flow of doctors from Commonwealth countries is being affected by the General Medical Council's new tests of capability to practise in British circumstances. This is likely to multiply staffing problems, although it will somewhat weaken the force of the frequently heard argument that the doctors we lose through emigration are good ones and the ones we gain bad. The second is the evidence that more doctors of unusual promise or achieve-

ment are leaving the country. A number of distinguished members of the profession have recently been reported to be planning to emigrate. The survey among consultants and senior registrars that Mrs Castle made public yesterday suggests that there is room for concern though certainly not panic.

The signs of an exodus (such as they are) may be taken to be evidence of dissatisfaction, but it is dangerous to be too specific about its causes. It cannot be claimed that Mrs Castle's plans for abolishing private practice within the NHS are the main factor, for many of the unfilled vacancies and many of the specialists who leave are in specialties where private practice hardly exists. The proposals are likely to be an important factor in many cases, however. The hospital career structure and its late rewards compared with general practice are also significant influences on many emigrating doctors who see their future on the hospital side. The crisis of morale in the health service has many causes, financial, structural and political. They will need both money and statesmanship to set them right. And more widely than the health service, the outflow of doctors is only a part of a more general trend for highly skilled individuals to seek work where there is freer scope for enterprise and where the rewards of enterprise are less punitively taxed.

ing force than loyalty to his person. Like his model, General de Gaulle, he may be creating a system which is top-heavy, and driving too much talent to waste itself in a divided and weak opposition. On these points, time will tell. Meanwhile Mr Karamanlis unquestionably speaks for his people in asking Britain's support for Greece's membership of the EEC and for the unity and independence of Cyprus. The significance of the first request is more political than economic, and it deserves whole-hearted support, for the Community undoubtedly has a role to play in strengthening democracy throughout southern Europe. The second request is one that should not need making since it asks Britain to fulfil her obligations under international treaty. So far the British government has been sadly ineffective, not to say feeble, in its diplomatic efforts to achieve a solution of the Cyprus crisis. The least it can do now is to take very seriously any suggestions that Mr Karamanlis makes.

In the last resort, when all other means have failed, in situations of entrenched social, racial, and economic injustice, ruthlessly maintained by unjust laws, dare we say that an oppressed people are never justified in armed resistance to a state which denies them any possibility of bringing about change by constitutional means? Certainly St Thomas Aquinas did not think so. Yours faithfully, HUGH BISHOP, 19 St John's Terrace, Leeds, October 3.

Their own masters
From Mr E. Brooke
Sir, President Podgorný says "... only the Portuguese people, and none but the Portuguese people have the right to dispose of their future".
Sadly, Soviet tanks prevent the same right being enjoyed by the Czechs, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians, East Germans, Bulgarians, Romanians and Poles. Yours faithfully, E. BROOKE, 151 New Bond Street, W1, October 3.

Voting systems under review

From Professor Richard Rose
Sir, I am afraid that my Oxford friends Professor S. E. Finer and D. E. Butler are naive in calling for more investigation of electoral systems. Interests, not ideas, determine how a government allows its citizens to vote and what they may vote about. An important illustration of this principle can be found in current discussions about the election of a devolved Scottish Assembly.

Since Scotland now has a four-party system, the use of the conventional first past the post British system would maximise the likelihood of either the Labour Party or the Scottish National Party manufacturing a majority of seats from a minority of votes. In October 1974, for example, Labour won 58 per cent of the Scottish seats with 36 per cent of the vote. The SNP could similarly win a majority of seats with about two-fifths of the vote.

The use of proportional representation would not only allocate seats more nearly in proportion to votes, but also maximise the likelihood of the assembly having a majority of unionist MPs, as long as there is a majority for union in the Scottish electorate. It would, however, also maximise the problem of Labour or the SNP securing a majority of seats.

The choice is perfectly clear and MPs of all parties understand what is at stake. No prizes are offered for guessing which alternative appeals most to the interested party. Yours faithfully, RICHARD ROSE, Department of Politics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, October 8.

Conditions in Cyprus

From Mr George Lantitis
Sir, In a letter published in *The Times* of October 1, Mr Ian M. Scorgie tries to extol the earthly paradise of the occupied north of Cyprus and to convince us that Kyrenia, my home town, is becoming a rose garden again.

He writes that Kyrenia harbour in the evening is thronged with people, but these people are not the happy sunbathers British tourists people their quays but the occupation army with their guns. He says that his bill at a Kyrenia restaurant was under £10 for eight people, including the wine. He did not perhaps know that this restaurant is the property of a Greek Cypriot who is now a refugee living under a tent, and the new owner does not have to pay any rent. While he was enjoying his meal he did not perhaps turn his head to the nearby Dome Hotel where a great number of Greek Cypriots, mainly old people, are encamped, and they are under a 24-hour curfew.

He expresses his satisfaction that the looting in the occupied regions of Cyprus does not occur as often as at the beginning of the invasion. But he is wrong. There is no more looting. The valuable possessions of Greek Cypriots and Britons alike have been already exported to Turkey.

The electricity, he writes, is cheaper than it used to be. But of course electricity is supplied free to the Turkish occupied areas by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus and is paid for by the Greek Cypriot taxpayer like myself.

It is astonishing that from all reports and letters appearing in the British and generally in the West press, only Mr Scorgie has emerged to express disagreement on the depressing economic wilderness of the North.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE LANTITIS, 22 Pilgrims' Lane, Hampstead, NW3.

Registration of land

From Mr A. A. Brown
Sir, There is already a sufficient degree of confusion in the public mind concerning the law relating to title to land.

I feel therefore that I must write to comment upon the article in your newspaper of October 1 by your Legal Correspondent concerning the trophy awarded to the Land Registry by the British Computer Society. The computer at the Land Charges Registry is, excellently, doing sterling work, but it is not yet clever enough to deal with titles to land which are not already registered at the Land Registry. What the computer does do is to store the names of persons who have the benefit of charges of one sort or another against land, which is a very different thing from dealing with title to land itself.

Furthermore, your Correspondent suggests that the Land Registry is concerned with the title to all land in England and Wales. This is, of course, not so and this registry is limited to dealing only with land the title to which is registered or is in course of registration under the various Land Registration Acts. Unregistered land is wholly outside the scope of the Land Registry. Yours faithfully, A. A. BROWN, D. J. Freeman & Co. Solicitors, 9 Cavendish Square, W1.

Skills and rewards

From Mr Alan W. Ruddle
Sir, With reference to Mr Meare's letter on the subject of skills and rewards (October 6)—I recently held interviews for the position of telephoneist/receptionist in industry. One applicant, aged only 19½ years and currently employed in a nationalised industry as a "general clerk"—with no special skills—was earning (?) £2,444 per annum and she had not been in the employment a year.

What hope is there in industry or to the public at large to keep prices and living costs down when industry has to compete with such ludicrous pay scales? Yours faithfully, ALAN W. RUDDLE, Roman Catholic Lane, Penperllan, Near Pontypool, Gwent.

State influence and the Conservatives

From Mr J. Bruce-Gardyne
Sir, Ian Gilmour, in his two thoughtful articles, sees the essential task awaiting the next Conservative Government as being that of restoring the authority of the state; and in particular the authority of the state over those over-mighty barons, the national leaders of the trade unions. It is a proposition that will command widespread acceptance.

One's doubts are over the point at which this authority is to be asserted. Mr Gilmour sees the need for "representation of the public interest in wage bargaining (just as it has been represented for years in price fixing)". Now the traditional point of public interest representation in wage fixing is the control of abuse of monopoly supply; and rightly so. The attempt to impose particular prices is a novel development, and one that has done more to destroy the viability of the private sector of the economy than any other recent years.

Similarly the assertion of a public interest in the abuse of a monopoly supply position in the labour market is quite different from the imposition of particular wage rates by law, which constitutes an attack on the essential *raison d'être* of the trade union movement.

Nor is it easily apparent how the necessary measure of public acceptance of a particular definition of "the public interest" in an individual wage negotiation is to be obtained. Certainly the experience of the attempts at centralized wage regulation in this country to date has been that it exacerbates conflict, and diminishes the authority of the state, without in any way enhancing the perceived "fairness" of the distribution of rewards and resources.

The fundamental shift in the balance of powers within the nation since the war—not only in this country—stems from the assumption by government of responsibility for the maintenance of full employment. No longer are union leaders, particularly at national level, feel inhibited in negotiation by the fear that excessive demands could jeopardize job security.

Yet government has proved unable to deliver. Each upturn in the economy has left a higher proportion of the labour force stranded on the shores of unemployment; each recession has brought a higher peak of workless. From time to time our leaders warn us that "one man's wage settlement is another's redundancy notice". But the ominous commitment to the maintenance of full employment by government action belies their words.

Rather than seeking to shed the label of "the party of high unemployment" on to Labour's back—strong enough and temporary as may be—it is not the task of responsible Opposition at this time to urge the Government to recognize what is surely a manifest truth to most of the electorate: that a particular level of employment cannot be permanently maintained by the actions of politicians and civil servants, however well intentioned; and that the consequences of pretending otherwise have been to saddle the productive sector of the economy with a swollen and privileged mass of civil servants and surplus employees in the public sector, which, in turn, has weakened the capacity of the productive sector to provide employment in the future?

Yours faithfully, J. BRUCE-GARDYNE, 23 Kelsio Place, W8, October 7.

From Mr Robert O. Plowright
Sir, Mr Ian Gilmour's laudable strictures on the detestable tendency of the modern state to intrude ever more deeply and ineffectively into huge areas of private and public life, are fortuitously illustrated in your correspondence columns today (October 7), by the juxtaposition of letters from Professor P. R. J. Burch (Smoking and lung cancer) and Mr K. Best (Use of headlights).

On the one hand, we have the renegade professor casting serious doubt on a hypothesis that has been a tenet of successive health departments, as well as a further and unwelcome source of government interference (and needless to say expenditure of taxpayers' money) with the promise of much more to come. On the other, Mr Best is left wondering whatever became of a piece of incomprehensible legislation, the purport of which was apparently that people in

Cabinet confidentiality

From Mr Simon Blackley
Sir, Most press reaction to the Lord Chief Justice's ruling over the publication of the Crossman diaries, including your leading article (Clear and necessary, October 2), has failed to point out the important distinction to be made between the concept of secrecy and that of confidentiality. No breach of the statutory Official Secrets Act, as Lord Widgery took pains to make clear, was here in question. What he was concerned to defend, as much against the demands of the executive for freedom of disclosure as against those of the Attorney General for security from disclosure, was the principle of confidentiality. That principle alone can create and sustain the atmosphere of openness vital for the proper working of government, an atmosphere in which "confidences" can be freely exchanged because there is mutual trust in the personal judgment needed to respect them.

Although mere confidence may occasionally be abused, such total walls of secrecy as that which Mr Nixon built around himself can clearly not be countenanced. However, if that wall was eventually demolished as a result of the growing pressure of feeling in the United States that "in a democracy the process of government should be fully known to the governed", it may also have been that very pressure which necessitated the wall's original construction. No government can function without some degree of protection from public scrutiny. If we do not respect the Cabinet's principle of confidentiality at least as much as its members

cars should switch their lights on when it got dark!

Can one wonder that so much of the visible product of government is regarded with contempt, and so much of the invisible with suspicion?

Let us hope that along with a vital concern for the defence of our institutions and economy the Conservative Party will, this week, perhaps look beyond the tradition of Burke, Disraeli and others to whom Mr Gilmour refers, to John Locke whose comments are so pertinent to our present state:

"The business of laws is not to provide for the truth of opinions but for the safety and security of the Commonwealth and of every particular man's goods and person. And so it ought to be. For truth certainly would do well enough if she were once left to shift for herself. She seldom has received, and I fear never will receive, much assistance from the power of great men to whom she is but rarely known and more rarely welcomed."

Yours faithfully, ROBERT O. PLOWRIGHT, 3 Cricket View, Princes Road, Weybridge, Surrey, October 7.

From Mr M. J. Briggs
Sir, Ian Gilmour seems to fear there would be riots if any large-scale de-nationalization were attempted. It is true that the highly organized might stage demonstrations of various kinds, but anybody who tried to cur down on nationalization could be sure of the solid support of the majority of ordinary citizens, as has been shown by one opinion poll after another. The people have said repeatedly they do not want any more nationalization, which is not surprising in view of the fury and frustration they experience in dealing with nationalized industries, not least of them the gas boards, whose methods have been so brilliantly described by Bernard Levin. Yours faithfully, M. J. BRIGGS, 1 Fitzroy Road, Tankerton, Kent, October 7.

Stimulating investment

From Sir Peter Tennant
Sir, Your leader of October 7 dealt with our lagging industrial investment and commended the initiatives for stimulating investment, first by the Bank of England under Sir Henry Benson and, second, the expenditure in certain industrial sectors by the Department of Industry under Section 8 of the Industry Act. On the same day you published a splendid letter from a number of sensible people led by Professor Finer on the need to reform our political system so as to avoid the partisan legislation enacted and repealed by successive governments since the war which amongst other things undermined decision-making in such fields as industrial investment.

Had post-war governments not touched tillers, brakes, accelerators, clutches or flipped on and off red, green and amber lights in their successive stop-go non-policies, there would be no need for Sir Henry Benson's initiative or the Industry Act, which can only adjust to the man-made distortions of our political and economic life. We need to stimulate life not distort it.

The other day, Dr Friderichs, the Liberal Economics Minister in the Liberal Socialist Coalition in Germany, a country which has only had three changes of tax laws by comparison with our 23 since the last war, spoke out against distorting the economy by tinkering with subsidies as a cure for their "inadequate industrial investment (brilliant by our standards)."

He stressed the need for more profit in the hands of firms, and individuals as an inducement to investment rather than taking it away in taxes and distributing the profits in inefficient state spending. This policy is being backed by the Socialist Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. Perhaps this German initiative and example is worth emulating.

Yours faithfully, PETER TENNANT, Anchor House, Shortlands Ponds, Baslemere, Surrey, October 7.

Rape and the law

From Miss Anne Louise Huey
Sir, I was the victim of a man who was found guilty of entering my flat with intent to rape and acquitted of the actual rape. I feel now that I have been found guilty of leading a man on "no matter how unreasonable" the circumstances. I am proud of myself for thinking rationally enough at the time to escape physically unharmed and with my life.

Apparently the only way I could have convinced the jury I did not encourage him was to have been badly beaten. Even with that hindsight I would still behave in the same manner and I encourage other women to do the same.

I have far more disgust for the Law Lords than I have for the pitiful man I accused. I am sure the Law Lords thought their decision was a wise one but I hope they reconsider when they see what their decision has caused in this case and I am sure many others. I was not wrong; the Law Lords are. Yours sincerely, ANNE LOUISE HUEY, Lensbury Club, Lensbury Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

Enforcement of pollution laws

From the General Secretary of the Society of Chemical Industry
Sir, The letter from the chairman of the Lawyers' Ecology Group (October 8) raises a number of important issues. Effective control of pollution depends upon legislation, enforcement of legislation, and a sustained technical effort. Thus, the Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Act of 1923, whilst making it an offence to pollute water courses, was quite ineffective in that no means at that time existed for its enforcement.

However, when the River Boards became established in 1948 the means were provided for enforcement. (River pollution has never been the concern of the Factory Inspectorate). Since that date the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Acts, coupled with technical advance and cooperation from enlightened industry, have achieved a substantial improvement in the quality of our water courses. This advance will be consolidated and extended in a constructive way by the Control of Pollution Act of 1974.

The "dirigiste" approach of the EEC countries represents a different philosophy which in the considered view of informed opinion in the United Kingdom is likely to be much less effective. As to enforcement of existing pollution legislation by the other EEC countries, it is to be charitable—uneven.

For your correspondent to say that "pollution... recognizes no frontier" certainly requires qualification when the frontier happens to be the North Sea and the English Channel rather than a line on the map.

Means necessary to ensure preservation of good environmental conditions differ greatly in a wind-swept island from the continental land mass. It is not, with respect, simply "narrow, short-term economic considerations" that cause Great Britain to take a different view from the other members of the EEC—it is the facts of geography. Yours faithfully, D. E. SHARP, General Secretary, Society of Chemical Industry, 14 Belgrave Square, SW1, October 8.

Discretion of courts

From Mr A. Joseph Brayshaw
Sir, You print, today (October 7) a letter from the Howard League for Penal Reform, which is entitled "Whose discretion?" That report opens with the words: "The crux is this: for a long time, more men and women have been sent to prison every year than the year before, and sentences for many types of offence have been lengthened." It refers to "prison-addicted courts" and says that "informed opinion is that they are making excessive use of imprisonment." As a member of the League for over 30 years, I am not surprised to find this report; had felt that fairness required that at least some mention should be made also of the great increase in crime over recent years, especially in offences against the person.

Let anyone should be led to think that the courts are the real offenders, just because they deal according to law with the increasing number of those who are convicted, the facts should be stated. Between 1963 and 1973 the conviction rate in England and Wales increased by more than 50 per cent. So one might have expected the different forms of sentence to increase in much the same way. In fact, for every 100 offenders fined in 1963 there were 201 in 1973; for every 100 offenders granted an absolute or conditional discharge in 1963 there were 120 so dealt with in 1973; for every 100 offenders put on probation or supervision in 1963 there were 151 in 1973; and for every 100 sentenced to imprisonment in 1963 there were 53 so sentenced in 1973. Yours truly, A. JOSEPH BRAYSHAW, Secretary, The Magistrates' Association, 28 Fitzroy Square, W1, October 7.

Headlamp dazzle
From Mr G. C. Jenkins
Sir, The Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety shares the concern of your correspondents about the dazzling effect of main headlights when used at night on well lit streets, and would urge the use of dipped beam headlights in such circumstances.

However, since the Department of the Environment in its press notice referring to the draft proposals for the compulsory use of headlights at night admitted that since vehicles have been allowed to park without lights on well lit roads at night there has been an appreciable rise in the number of accidents involving parked cars from a road safety point of view it would be more effective if the Minister for Transport were now to withdraw the previous regulations (against which my association advised at the time) which permitted parking at night without lights on well lit roads, and to make it compulsory for all vehicles parked on any public road to be lit at night. Yours faithfully, G. C. JENKINS, Chairman, Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety, 166 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2.

Haydn at Euston

From Mr Mark Rittner
Sir, Haydn's 95 in C minor is even more appropriate than Mr Andrew Roberts knows (October 8); it was almost certainly written in 1792, the year of the birth of the architect of Euston, Philip Hardwick. Your readers will doubtless remember that this splendid building was destroyed by vandals in 1963. Yours faithfully, MARK RITTNER, PS. What are they playing at Liverpool Street these days? 50 Ravensbourne Park, SE6, October 8.

Stock Exchange Prices


Shares steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 6. Dealings End Oct 17. § Contango Day, Oct 20. Settlement Day, Oct 28
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Doxford presses for £5m state aid to develop output of diesel engines

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Plans calling for the injection of several million pounds by the Government to support a large development and modernization programme for British diesel engine plant are to be submitted shortly to the Department of Industry.

Doxford Engines of Sunderland, one of the companies acquired by the Government last year in its £15m takeover of Court Shipbuilders and its subsidiaries, after the collapse of Court Line, is preparing a detailed application for submission to the Department.

The company, which is being cautious about the details and scope of the scheme, but it is understood that the amount involved will be from £5m to £6m, and would be geared to a substantial retooling programme.

The Wearside-based company, which is pressing ahead with development work on a new medium speed diesel engine which can be adapted for either marine or land use, has received very little in the way of state support in the past. It is likely to argue that investment is desperately needed if Britain is to maintain any sort of international presence in the field.

The company's last big retool-

ing exercise took place more than a decade ago and a government commitment to support the scheme would be a useful fillip to Britain's ailing machine tool industry, particularly to companies on Wearside.

Informal discussions have already taken place with Whitehall, and the company is now engaged in preparing a detailed case to justify the new investment. An important factor in whether or not the Government approves the scheme will be a new technical cooperation agreement which Doxford announced last night with MAN the German diesel engine builders of Augsburg.

The agreement calls for cooperation in the production of low speed diesel engines as well as their development and sales and service. It is understood that Doxford, as part of the deal, will be producing a large number of components for incorporation into MAN-built engines—hence the need for retooling and modernization programme at the company's plant at Fellon, near Sunderland.

In a statement, Mr David Stables, the company's managing director, said that the two companies and their licensees would continue to market their respective designs where prac-

ticable, but would rationalize the production of components, cooperate in after-sales service, and most importantly cooperate closely in engine development.

In particular the two companies would seek to develop jointly new engines using their experience and technical know-how to meet technical and economic requirements.

In this new European venture, Doxford may build complete MAN engines, including new designs. At present Doxford has an order book worth £20m for 26 of its low speed diesel engines with deliveries stretching into the middle of 1977.

The company's main preoccupation in the development field is with its medium-speed engine, the Seahorse, for which prospects are considered to be very bright. Testing is going ahead, with a maximum of government assistance, and the company is engaged in talks with several British shipbuilders and with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Government involvement in Britain's marine engineering business in the past has not been auspicious, but it, and when shipbuilding industry nationalization legislation is enacted, the Government will also take in other marine engine building companies.

Italy ready to impose selective import curbs

From John Earle
Rome, Oct 8

Despite a considerable improvement in the balance of payments, the Italian Government is planning selective measures to restrict consumption of goods with a high import content.

This was disclosed by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Budget Minister, who in a Senate debate on the economic outlook said an expected 2 per cent growth in gross national income next year was likely to bring a new increase in the trade deficit.

We can reduce the effects of a growth in income on imports, he said, "by introducing restrictions, limitations or disincentives, of a fiscal, tariff or other nature, on consumption (as well as on productive use) with a high import content."

The Government intends to insist on this course, already set in motion last year, profiting from the results of the more successful foreign experiences.

The minister rounded off his speech with a quotation from

British Government White Paper, to the effect that the economic battle could not be won in a year, but could be lost in a year.

As Signor Andreotti recalled, the Italian Government imposed in April last year a 50 per cent deposit scheme on non-essential imports. This lasted, without opposition by the European Economic Community or retaliation by other countries, until March this year. Then the improvement was already apparent in the balance of payments, which for the first time last July registered a monthly surplus of 14,000 million lire (about £10m).

Signor Andreotti's remarks were regarded by observers as deliberately vague, suggesting that the Government had not decided on the exact form of the restrictions.

Panel to study gold pact

An American congressional subcommittee is to consider the agreement to dispose of 50 million ounces of gold held by the International Monetary Fund on October 10.

Representative Henry Reuss said the subcommittee will determine the impact the agreement will have on the role of gold in the international monetary system.

Mr Reuss earlier suggested that the proceeds of the gold sales should be offered to aid the poorer nations. "Why should the rich countries earn enormous windfall profits from the liquidation of IMF gold?" he asked.

The main concern, said the

Eurocanadian group may put in takeover bid for Furness Withy

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

A takeover bid seems probable for Furness Withy, the British shipping company, by a Bermuda-based investment company, Eurocanadian Ship-holdings.

Eurocanadian, which holds just under 30 per cent of Furness Withy, has had talks with the company about "mutual trading interests."

Last night, after the Furness Withy board had rejected a proposal that five Eurocanadian directors join the board, Mr Frank Marby, Eurocanadian's majority shareholder and founder, was still in London considering his next move.

Sir James Steel, chairman of

Furness, acknowledged the position by saying: "The next move could be a bid and we would of course have to advise our shareholders on the merits of any offer."

But any bid would certainly have to be well over the current depressed stock market level before we could seriously consider it."

After news that talks between the two companies were deadlocked, Furness's price gained 5p to 229p, capitalizing the company at just over £60m.

Yesterday's meeting, at which the proposition of Eurocanadian representation was put to the Furness board, was the last of three arranged after Eurocanadian declared its stake in

the British company last month. Furness has 12 directors, and under its articles could have 15, so two resignations were needed to meet Eurocanadian's terms. But more important is that the two are competitors on the North Atlantic container ship run—Furness through its control of Manchester Liners.

Sir James said yesterday: "Eurocanadian suggested a merging of joint interests on North Atlantic trade and a shifting of the headquarters operation to an offshore point."

It appeared to us that what they are seeking to do is control the company from inside without going to the expense of buying all the shares."

Financial Editor, page 25

Top jobs slump likely to continue

By Patricia Tisdall

Prospects for executives seeking employment are probably bleaker than at any time during the past 30 years, says a report issued yesterday by MSL management consultants. The company's index for the third quarter ending in September shows an overall reduction in demand for executives of 34 per cent over the past 12 months, and 17 per cent down compared with the previous quarter.

The new low reached by the index is almost at the worst level of 1971, the year when executive redundancy in British industry reached an all-time peak and the downward trend is likely to continue.

"According to the previous pattern of the index, which indicates a four to five year demand cycle, we have probably not yet touched bottom," says the report.

Executive redundancies this year so far have been fairly small because since the "great executive shake-out" of 1971 most firms have very little surplus staff. But the average number of applicants for every executive job advertised is double the figure for a year ago.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of executives wishing to work abroad.

In addition, the rate of general executive job inquiries received by MSL in the form of unsolicited approaches from prospective candidates has risen by 12 per cent compared with the previous year.

There is some optimism in certain categories such as export sales and overseas appointments, as well as top level management. Computer man also shows very little surplus staff. But the average number of applicants for every executive job advertised is double the figure for a year ago.

All other areas including sales appointments, personnel (where demand is at its lowest since 1972) production (demand is 46 per cent below 1974) and general management where less than half the numbers of posts were advertised in 1975 compared with 1973, have been badly hit.

Companies finding 'new resilience'

Although the bottom of the slump has not yet been reached, informal soundings in the regions by the Confederation of British Industry are revealing a new resilience among companies in the face of their tightened circumstances.

A CBI spokesman said yesterday that no single region is the first of a series of discussions that the slump had reached bottom. He added: "Invariably the reaction is that we have still got further down to go."

But the feeling seemed to be that the situation was now more controllable than it had been. It was now a "controlled shallow dive" rather than last year's "spin".

The main concern, said the

spokesman, was how the upturn was to be financed. Companies felt they had the resources for the present level of activity, but not for very much more.

Clearer indication will emerge early next month when the CBI publishes its next industrial trends survey.

Meanwhile, it is expected that the first of a series of discussions with ministers to monitor the preliminary phase of the pay policy will start later this month.

Industrial leaders are also hoping there will be an early start to discussions on the next phase of the policy.

Sir Ralph Batesman, the CBI president, has warned the Prime Minister that industry's cooperation with the Govern-

ment is being severely strained by persistence with its plans to nationalize the aerospace, shipbuilding, ship repairing and marine engineering industries.

He says in a letter to Mr Wilson that the CBI is utterly opposed to "politically motivated plans for increased state ownership and that the timing is particularly unfortunate in view of the added burden which will be placed on public expenditure at a time when it needs rigorous control."

"Industry fully accepts the need for the closest cooperation with the Government, especially at this time of acute economic difficulty," writes Sir Ralph. "But the introduction of this Bill can only make such co-operation harder to achieve."

How the markets moved

The Times index 139.06 - 0.01
The FT index: 330.6 + 0.8

Rises		Falls	
Asi Port Comd	4p to 180p	Becham Grp	2p to 305p
BP	5p to 350p	Brit Am Tob	5p to 297p
Cape Ind	8p to 130p	Glaxo	5p to 374p
De Beers Ltd	8p to 282p	Glaxo Hldgs	5p to 350p
Estates Bank	6p to 257p	Hamesley	10p to 165p
Furness Withy	5p to 229p	Metal Box	4p to 242p
Gl Portland	5p to 225p	Morland & Co	5p to 370p

Equities suffered from a lack of interest but stayed narrowly mixed. Half-edged securities had another uncertain day. Sterling gained 20 pts to \$2.0435. The "effective devaluation" rate was 29.3 per cent.

Gold fell 58.75 an ounce to \$139.25. SDR-6 was 1.1737 on Wednesday while GDR-6 was 0.574927.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1150.9 (previous 1154.0).

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THE FUND		Bank	
Australia	5	1.67	1.61
Austria	5	1.67	1.61
Belgium	5	1.67	1.61
Canada	5	1.67	1.61
Denmark	5	1.67	1.61
Finland	5	1.67	1.61
France	5	1.67	1.61
Germany	5	1.67	1.61
Greece	5	1.67	1.61
Hong Kong	5	1.67	1.61
Italy	5	1.67	1.61
Japan	5	1.67	1.61
Netherlands	5	1.67	1.61
Norway	5	1.67	1.61
Portugal	5	1.67	1.61
S. Africa	5	1.67	1.61
Spain	5	1.67	1.61
Sweden	5	1.67	1.61
Switzerland	5	1.67	1.61
US	5	1.67	1.61
Yugoslavia	5	1.67	1.61

Rates for small denomination bank notes, as applied yesterday by Barclays Bank, are: £100 1.67, £50 1.67, £20 1.67, £10 1.67, £5 1.67, £2 1.67, £1 1.67, 50p 1.67, 20p 1.67, 10p 1.67, 5p 1.67, 2p 1.67, 1p 1.67.

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Engineering unions likely to defer decision today on next pay claim

By R. W. Shakespeare

Leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union are expected to defer any decision over their next national pay claim when they meet in York today.

The decision over pay is a difficult and controversial one when viewed against the background of the Government's 55-week strategy, and the issue is already threatening to split union ranks.

The engineering unions have agreed to seek the advice of the TUC about how the next pay claim, due to be tabled with the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) early in the new year, should be drawn up.

The meeting with the TUC's economics committee has been arranged for next week, and this means that the national executive of the confederation will have an excuse today to postpone any final decision until its next meeting in December.

But the deep-seated differences over pay policy remain and could ultimately lead to a breakdown of the existing machinery of co-ordinating negotiation in engineering, under

which basic rates of pay and conditions are agreed jointly between the employers and the confederation unions at national level, while actual pay rates are determined in separate negotiations at company and plant level.

The powerful Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which because of its size, tends to dominate the confederation, has consistently opposed the Government's wages strategy.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, its president, who normally leads the union negotiations in engineering, has already made it clear that whatever the TUC advises and whatever the EEF offers, the confederation decides to do, his union must remain free to determine its own wages policy.

It was Mr Scanlon who suggested to the confederation leaders a month ago that they should go to the TUC for guidance. By getting them to agree to this, he has set the TUC leadership a formidable task, since they will have to try to relate the pay strategy to an extremely complex situation in engineering.

Although some 5,000 different firms are parties through the membership of the EEF—to

the national agreement on wages and conditions, most also have quite separate pay agreements within their own organisations, all with different terminal dates.

Early in the new year the final stage of the existing national agreement in engineering will further lift basic rates to give a "total" increase of around 10.5 a week over the past 12 months.

The problem for the TUC will be to decide how its policy of supporting the 55-week increase can be applied right across the industry when the national settlement has a variety of effects on hundreds of different groups of workers, and almost every worker is affected by separately-negotiated agreements with each of the 5,000 individual employers.

Whatever the TUC advises—and it can only give the very broadest guidance—Mr Scanlon's tactics will probably be to seek a fresh mandate from his union's policymaking national committee before deciding what role, if any, he is to play in the next round of negotiations throughout the industry.

Stewards oppose Leyland worker participation

By Our Northern
Industrial Correspondent

British Leyland's far-reaching plans for worker participation have led to a conflict between the company and shop stewards over the way in which shop floor representatives are to be appointed to the proposed new joint decision-making bodies.

The company wanted these posts to be filled by elections based on a full-scale ballot. However, last night at a meeting between a 32-strong representative committee of all the British Leyland car plants and national union officials, the stewards insisted that the representatives to the first stage of the proposed three-tier joint management structure—the departmental committees—must be appointed from among the elected shop stewards.

This demand was backed by the union leaders and Mr Bob Wright, executive council member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said later: "We hold very strongly that these people must be either senior shop stewards or shop stewards agreed by the trade unions. There is no question of going outside that."

The way in which the worker representatives are appointed to the departmental committees is crucial, since the subsequent stages of the joint management structure—at plant and divisional level—will depend on it.

The departmental committees will select from among their own number their representatives to go on to the plant committees and divisional councils. This structure has already been agreed in earlier talks between company executives and union and shop stewards' representatives.

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Outlook is for recession to continue

Continuing recession, accompanied by a further gradual deceleration of inflation, is predicted by all the main forecasting units for 1976. Despite the widely expected recovery in world trade most forecasts are for slow export growth and another large balance of payments deficit.

Only the commercial forecasters, the Henley Centre, Hoare & Co. Govett and Phillips & Drew, have changed their estimates since last month. Most of the adjustments are minor, but both Hoare & Co. Govett and Phillips & Drew have scaled down their forecasts of gross domestic product growth.

Hoare & Co. Govett, like the London Business School, expect companies to continue to run down stocks in 1976 despite the large fall so far this year.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	NIESR (Aug)	LBS (Aug)	Year 1975/76 (Aug)	H & G (Sept)	P & D (Sept)	1st half 1975/76 (Aug)	2nd half 1975/76 (Aug)
Percentage increase	-0.8	-1.7	-0.5	-1.2	-0.2	1.7	1.0
Consumption	-0.8	-1.7	-0.5	-1.2	-0.2	1.7	1.0
Private investment inc	-4.9	1.9	-3.5	-3.5	-1.0	-3.6	-4.9
Public investment inc	-1.1	-4.5	-2.6	0.0	-1.1	5.1	-0.8
Exports	3.3	2.5	-1.1	2.5	2.6	3.7	5.7
Imports	0.9	3.5	3.8	0.1	2.6	10.0	2.2
Stockbuilding (£m) Year 1975	2.9	0.2	4.0	4.1	1.8	5.8	5.8
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	-4.5	-1.9	4.0	-1.66	4.0	-2.92	-2.92
Inflation forecast	1.2	1.4	-0.2	0.4	0.8	2.5	2.6
Balance of payments—current account deficit (£m) Year	14.1	15.4	16.6	13.7	18.0	—	12.6
	582	1,131	900	-653	1,600	—	746

All forecasts are in constant prices, seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the first half 1975/76 are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H & G and P & D assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources.

Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in results also reflect differences in assumptions, model construction and data at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets.

The Treasury published its forecasts with the Financial Statement and Budget Report, which usually appears once a year. NIESR and LBS revise their forecasts every quarter. H & G and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

Row over promised £6m loan to NVT brings problems for Meriden

By Clifford Webb

A row between the sifting Norton Villiers Triumph motorcycle company and the Department of Trade over the terms of a promised £6m loan is causing serious problems for the Meriden Motorcycle Cooperative which sells its entire output to NVT.

Mr. Denis Johnson, chairman of the cooperative which bought the former NVT factory with the help of a government loan, said last night: "We are caught in the middle of this row between NVT and the Department of Trade."

Without the £6m, NVT cannot pay for the machines we are producing for the North American market. We are restricting production to around 200 machines a week when we should be building up towards 500. Stocks of completed machines are piling up and we have 450 men and women to pay."

Last week the cooperative sent two representatives to the department's London headquarters to investigate the reasons for the delay in granting the Export Credit Guarantee Department loan which is specifically earmarked for buying the cooperative's Bonneville machines and marketing them in North America.

The representatives claim they were told that the money could be released tomorrow if NVT would accept the terms under which it was offered. But last night Mr. Hugh Palin, NVT's director of external affairs, said: "It is nowhere near as simple as the Department make out."

"They want us to accept 20 per cent of total practical conditions. For instance, they want to be notified of every single sale and to whom the machine went. We have had to call in an American lawyer to try to unravel it."

He said NVT management was "acutely aware of the serious problems this delay is causing the cooperative. We are doing our best to help and this week we have managed to purchase our first consignment of Meriden machines for North America. It is only 100, but I am afraid that is all we can manage at this stage."

Meanwhile the cooperative is having difficulty in finding storage space for some 850 completed motor cycles. An ECGD spokesman last night refused to comment on loan terms to individual applicants.

Government sources insisted that NVT had known about the terms of the loan for many months and had only recently raised issues with them.

A further 300 employees at Small Heath NVTs are being made redundant today. They will be followed by a further 300 redundancies.

Plan to save jobs opposed by PO union

By Christopher Thomas

The Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) yesterday opposed suggestions by other unions that the Post Office should order telecommunications equipment above its needs to protect jobs.

It suggested a joint meeting with unions to discuss redundancies at GEC, Plessey and Standard Telephones.

Mr. Bryan Stanley, general secretary of POEU, said in a statement that there was a grave financial crisis in the Post Office and it had a responsibility to its members to ensure the viability of the service. The union estimated that about £450m would have to be borrowed to save the jobs.

He insisted that there was no scope for further economies in the Post Office telecommunications business. "Stringent measures, including premature retirements, redeployment, a ban on adult recruitment, and measures leading to redundancy, are already being brought into effect for Post Office staff."

As a result of these economies some 6,000 jobs will be lost in the Post Office telecommunications in the present financial year, he said.

Mr. Stanley said the already heavy financial burdens of the Post Office would be increased if it had to buy additional equipment. It would add to the early writing off of equipment that still had many years of useful life.

Last week other unions in the Post Office, but not the POEU, expressed concern about redundancies in the telecommunications industry because of severe cutbacks by the Post Office in ordering new equipment.

Mr. Stanley is now waiting for a report from the Post Office before considering if his ordering policy should be reviewed.

Low-start mortgages by Alliance

By Margaret Stone

A new low-start mortgage scheme was announced yesterday by the Alliance Building Society—the largest in the country. The East-Start plan allows prospective purchasers to borrow up to 31 times annual income compared with the normal 21 times.

Borrowers are allowed to pay 1 per cent less than the ruling mortgage rate for the first three years. In the next three years, the normal rate becomes payable.

From then onwards the borrower will be paying the normal rate plus the interest deferred in the first three years.

The scheme is an improved version of the deferred interest mortgage plan recommended by the Government at the beginning of the year.

This scheme, based on an original plan also pioneered by the Alliance, allows for the deferred interest to be repaid by the borrower with the initial low-interest rate increasing six times during that period.

The government scheme has been a flop. It appears unlikely that anyone has taken advantage of it.

Inquiries to the Halifax, Woolwich and Abbey National reveal that none has advanced money on the deferred interest mortgage scheme. The Abbey National checked all its 300-odd branches last week and found that there had been so far only four inquiries for the scheme.

The scheme has proved a failure for several reasons. First, the interest rate was too high. When house prices had outstripped the purchasing power of first-time buyers.

When it was finally launched the relationship between house prices and incomes was more balanced and the necessity for a low-start interest scheme was less apparent.

In addition, the general economic uncertainty and policy is not conducive to such a scheme. The scheme relies for its success on the fact that borrowers can look forward to higher incomes in a few years to offset the high interest payments in the early years.

Another factor behind the failure of low-start mortgages has been the lukewarm response to it from the building societies.

Although most of the major societies have implemented the scheme, it has not left its mark on the table—they are not actively supporting such a scheme which is both costly to administer and complicated.

Oil and gas find in N. Zealand

Oil and gas in commercial quantities have been struck ashore at New Plymouth, New Zealand's North Island, the Republic Petroleum Corporation (NZ) have announced in Wellington.

The corporation predicted an oil flow from the well of 60 barrels a day and natural gas at a rate of 400,000 cubic feet. Drilling of a second well at the Motuora field is due to start next week.

This is believed to be the first onshore find of oil and gas, but the country already has proved substantial gas resources offshore.

Ministers to see Drypool report

Ministers will receive a detailed assessment of the prospects for the financially troubled Drypool shipbuilding group on Thursday.

The report has been prepared by Mr. Robert Smith, appointed receiver of the company some weeks ago by its bank, the National Westminster, after the collapse of efforts by the company's customers to mount a rescue operation in cooperation with the Government.

Arrangements for the payment of wages to the company's 1,200 workers and tomorrow

Apex calls for takeover by state of London Brick

Britain's largest white collar union is to meet ministers to demand nationalization of the London Brick Company, which has a monopoly in Fletton brick production.

Mr. Ray Edwards, assistant general secretary of the association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) said yesterday: "By its pricing policy London Brick has literally priced out smaller competitors."

"We will be demanding an inquiry into the possibility of setting up a brick bank to stabilize the supply of bricks. In times of surplus the bank can be built up and in times of shortage it can be run down."

Air freight deals under attack

By Arthur Reed

Unethical business practices seemed to be becoming common to the international air freight scene in Europe, Mr. John C. Emery, president of the United States company Emery Air Freight, said in London yesterday.

He called upon the International Air Transport Association (IATA) either to enforce the rates which members of the organization had agreed, or to abandon the practice of fixed rates entirely.

It required firm determination these days not to be tempted by the siren song of offers from airlines to move the company's freight at discount prices, he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dubious case for closing Shotton

From Sir Anthony Meyer, Conservative MP for Evesham

Sir, A national steel strike has been averted for the time being, but only by accepting a further delay in operating the new blast furnace at Shotton, which was completed by March 1973 but is still unused.

Yet Llanwern is one of the five plants which BSC has chosen for modernization and development, while Shotton, with its magnificent strike-free record, may yet lose the whole of its steel making capacity, involving some 5,000 jobs, no Port Talbot, another of the favoured five.

BSC claim that it would be cheaper to close Shotton steel making and greatly to enlarge Port Talbot (the large plant scheme), than to carry out a more modest development at Shotton and Port Talbot both (the two plant scheme), and the savings to be derived from the large plant solution would more than offset the extra cost of transporting coke and steel between Shotton and Port Talbot and the costs of closing Shotton.

The claim that whereas Port Talbot could be developed under the large plant scheme for £438m, the two plant scheme would need £447m of capital investment, of which £156m would be needed for Shotton

and about £290m for Port Talbot, so the running costs of the single plant scheme would be lower, they claim that the case for closing steel making at Shotton has been made out.

The Shotton estimates have been carefully checked, but those for the two plant scheme at Port Talbot are so extraordinary as to raise doubts about BSC's good faith.

Under the two plant scheme Port Talbot's steel making capacity was to be increased by 713,000 tonnes of hot rolled coil per annum. But BSC's estimates provide for a new hot strip mill and new (not additional) coke ovens, all of which are of a size to give, not 713,000 tonnes of extra capacity, but 3.1 million tonnes.

However, under the new hot strip mill at Port Talbot is far from proven, and would seriously unbalance the plant. The existing 80in mill there, built in 1951, need only increase its production by 31 per cent to achieve the extra 713,000 tonnes of hot rolled coil required—and BSC have already conceded that Shotton's 60in hot strip mill, built as long ago as 1936, could be modernized to increase its production by 50 per cent. As for the alleged need for new coke ovens at Port Talbot—

these were completely rebuilt from the foundations between 1968 and 1972.

The cost of the three items mentioned above was £200m. At BSC charge development costs at 20 per cent, they added at less than £40m per annum to the estimated running costs of the two plant scheme—a loading of more than £8 per tonne of total capacity, and more than £20 per tonne of increased capacity.

It is on such dubious figures that BSC rely to prove their case that the capital and running costs of the two plant scheme would be higher than the single plant development at Port Talbot.

This is their justification for the proposal to close Shotton, with its magnificent labour relations and unparalleled record of profits and steady economic growth before and immediately after nationalization, and to make the nation's steel supply entirely dependent on the introduction of new equipment at plants with a chequered record of industrial strife.

Port Talbot is a fine plant with a proud record. It should certainly be modernized and expanded, but not at the expense of Shotton.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MEYER,
House of Commons,
October 7.

Let's become a bureaucracy warren

From Mr. H. Jenkins

Sir, In your October 2 Business Diary attention was drawn to the substantial increase in the number of those engaged in the administration of our country. I feel obliged to take issue with your correspondent, who tends to deplore this situation.

A rough calculation will show that by 2050, provided the annual increase is maintained, and emigration, immigration, population growth and atom bombs do nothing to complicate our lives, 90 per cent of the working population will be busy engaged in administering ourselves and the 10 per cent working in industry and the remunerative services.

Unlike your correspondent I consider this a highly desirable goal and, if anything, all political parties should be encouraged in their efforts to improve on the present rate of growth in order to hasten the arrival of this utopian condition.

The 90 per cent engaged in government and public administration would be entitled to the usual high salaries, pension rights and freedom from the tiresome threat of unemployment in return for the production of an ever increasing amount of paperwork, constant attendance at committee meetings, outpourings of repetitious verbiage and an endless contemplation of their ailments, while the 10 per cent working in industry and the private sector would, in the main, be composed of accountants and lawyers all doing their best to interpret and foil the machinations of the administrators and highly qualified computer programmers and button-pushers operating our automated production lines.

Engineering services will be provided by the Japanese, the Americans and West Germans who supply the machines and design and develop the goods which they produce. It is also to be expected that the present developing nations will be poised to lend a hand by this time.

I am not too sure where the medical profession will fit in the scheme of things, but the vision must certainly be made for them somewhere, as by this time a large slice of the population will require intensive care.

Yours faithfully,
H. JENKINS,
Eversley,
4 Bradbourne Park Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Contributing your share to the state Sunday plate

From The Reverend Brian Taylor

Sir, Earlier this year, others of your readers may have been pleased to see that the Department of Health and Social Security had decided that the week ending on Sunday, the price of their conversion is, however, not so welcome.

Our local department manager writes, "The last week of the old National Insurance scheme, 31st March to 5th April, was in fact only six days, but full contributions are payable for each week or part of a week in which a person is employed or self-employed. The dates for termination of the previous National Insurance scheme and commencement of the present one were fixed by legislation as 5th April and 6th April respectively."

The implications of this will vary, but at its simplest, "legislation" has required us,

whether employers, employed or self-employed, to pay full contributions for a week clipped to six days. Perhaps it is better not to work our own corporate loss; the figure might encourage the legislature to do it again.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN TAYLOR
The Rectory,
Flower Walk,
Guldford,
October 5.

Business appointments

Further changes by French Kier

Mr. J. C. S. Motz has joined the board and has been appointed chairman of French Kier Investments. Mr. T. F. Rows becomes managing director of the two companies.

Mr. G. W. Morton is now chairman of REW Construction. Mr. A. Kelleher has joined the board as a contract director. Mr. P. J. King remains managing director. Mr. R. R. Rows has retired from this board but remains a director of French Kier Holdings, the parent company, and managing director of French Kier Group (Construction).

Mr. E. J. Symonds joins and Mr. R. J. Ogle is to retire from the board of Tobacco Securities Trust.

Mr. J. B. Thomas has joined the board of Kennam Motor Group.

Parsons Controls has changed its name to Parsons Controls Holdings. Mr. J. E. Moxon has resigned as chairman and chief executive for health reasons. Mr. W. F. Whitford, Jr. has succeeded him as chairman and chief executive.

Mr. J. B. Thomas has joined the board of Kennam Motor Group.

Mr. John Bowdon has been made Wales Ice Cream general sales manager and is succeeded as national assistant controller by Mr. John Gregory.

Mr. W. R. Trengrove has been appointed financial director for Seagram Distillers. He replaces Mr. Charles B. Griffin, who is in transition to become treasurer general of Joseph E. Seagram & Sons in New York.

Mr. Bruce Kyla, a member of the board of Carreras Rothmans, has been elected chairman of the Society of Long Range Planning. Mr. A. W. Finlay, group planning director of British Airways, has been elected vice-chairman.

Mr. M. A. Hall has been appointed chief executive of Glickstein Venetia.

Mr. Derrick Howlett has become managing director of Harrow & Sons (High Wycombe). Mr. Hugh Riddell has been made group marketing and sales executive for the Harrison & Sons Fish Group.

Mr. B. J. Livingston is now managing director of Tyas Chemical.

Miss Lela Timms has been appointed to the board of C. A. Drive.

Mr. N. C. McLeckie has been made financial director of Conder Scotland.

Mr. George Fulver has become a vice-president of Reserve Engineering & Management International (REMI).

Mr. Cedric Dickens, recently retired as director of communications with International Computers, has been elected an executive director of P. H. C. Dickens, public relations consultants.

Mr. John Morgan has been appointed a director of Jones, Lang, Wootton GmbH.

Mr. D. W. Biddle, manager of Fugro (Great Britain), has been made a director.

Mr. J. R. A. Wallis has joined the board of Joyce Furniture as finance director.

Mr. Malcolm Glenn has been

CHANNEL TUNNEL INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Channel Islands)

Interim Report for the six months ended 30th June, 1975

	30th June, 1975	30th June, 1974	Year in (unaudited) (unaudited) 21st Dec., 1974
Income from quoted investments (gross)	2,216	3,075	5,223
Income from unquoted investments (gross)	1,441	—	20,091
Interest receivable	18,718	778	1,155
Administration expenses	3,494	2,358	20,008
Interest payable	—	20	—
Loss on sale of investments	—	—	5,500
Profit before taxation	18,923	1,466	20,766
Taxation	7,913	—	—
Profit after taxation	11,010	1,466	20,766

Notes:
1. The net profit on the disposal of shares in The British Channel Tunnel Company Limited at a profit and the expense of the capital reduction of the capital profit referred to in note 1.
2. Since 30th June, 1975, the share capital has been reduced from £29,220,400 to £75,322,500. The share premium account from £270,388,100 to £2,720,250 by the repayment to shareholders of 40p per share.
3th October, 1975

The weight of nine carat gold articles submitted to the London Assay Office during September increased by 23.7 per cent compared with the same month last year. Results issued by the Assay Office yesterday showed that the aggregate weight of gold submitted increased by 17.3 per cent to a total of 2,257,412 grammes.

The number of gold articles rose by 26.3 per cent over September 1974 to a total of 492,489 articles.

The office reports an increasing demand for silver.

By Tim Congdon

Last Friday's move by the Bank of England to raise minimum lending rate from 11 to 12 per cent "stands out like a beacon as a dramatic change in the behaviour pattern of the United Kingdom authorities" is the enthusiastic assessment of recent monetary policy moves in the latest *Monetary Bulletin* from W. Greenwell & Co, the stockbrokers.

The resolve of the authorities to tackle inflation "can be compared with that of the Federal Reserve", they say.

"For the first time for ages the United Kingdom has been prepared voluntarily to swallow nasty medicine", the bulletin says. "Such action should be applauded."

The short-run effect of the policy changes on confidence in the gilt-edged market may be unfavourable, the brokers feel. But they argue that more favourable news items should eventually appear and that the market will turn.

Apex will say that London Brick should bear a sizable share of the cost of setting up the bank, which would be high because bricks must be stored in dry conditions. Leaders of the brick industry, Mr. Reg Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, on October 22.

Mr. Edwards said in London yesterday that the time was long overdue for an approach to the European Commission for financial help for the construction industry. He was thinking in terms of £30m from the Community and £30m from Westminster as "a small beginning".



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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Issue at stake for Furness Withy

So the inevitable has happened and those talks about "how best to develop the mutual trading interests" of Furness Withy and Eurocanadian Ship-holdings have foundered. The simple issue at stake is Manchester Liners, controlled by Furness despite an aggressive takeover bid last year from Eurocanadian, which represents another powerful chunk of the North Atlantic container ship business which Eurocanadian clearly wishes to dominate.

Eurocanadian has committed itself to this cause to the extent of buying just under 20 per cent of Furness and trying to gain strong board representation at Furness. This tactic has failed as it was almost bound to. Eurocanadian must now decide whether it can take the only apparent road open to it if it wishes to go further—an outright bid for Furness. But any bid would probably have to value Furness at well over £70m and thus commit Eurocanadian to paying another £45m or so. Eurocanadian, controlled by Mr Frank Narby, a Swiss resident who apparently receives financial backing from wealthy interests is still an unknown quantity in this country.

Whether there are resources available sufficient to take Furness remains to be seen, but it seems inconceivable that Eurocanadian would have gone this far without realising that it might ultimately have to bid.

Carpets Int.

Australian difficulties

The stock market may have fallen overboard for overseas earnings with the dismal backdrop of the United Kingdom economy but operations away from home do not always bring unalloyed pleasure to shareholders. Australia, in particular, has been the Achilles heel of several British companies and so, too, it has proved to be of Carpins International.

Though the drop of more than a fifth to £6.3m in the year-over in Australia contributed to the volume fall, the huge stock overhang there has cut margins to the bone—reversing last half's profits of £660,000 into losses of £510,000 in the six months to June 28. Stocks are now back to more manageable levels—helped partly by government action to curb imports—and sales in the June-August period show signs of an improving trend.

Australia, then, is probably over the worst but the recovery will not be pronounced enough to offset completely the first-half setback. Elsewhere abroad, Canada should swing back into profitability in the second half and with other places—in Malaysia, for instance—still doing nicely, CI should about break even on its overseas operations for the full year after the overall first-half loss of £540,000.

The main surprise, though—and the company is itself slightly taken aback by it—is the resilience of United Kingdom carpet sales. Here CI's strength in the upper-end of the market and its refusal to chase sales at any price has helped push up turnover by a third to £32.3m with margins of 10 per cent of this volume growth. Margins were still under pressure, mainly as a result of wage increases rather than last year's vicious rise in raw material costs. While by no means exciting, the rise in United Kingdom profits to £1.04m is creditable enough in today's climate.

Sales in the United Kingdom in the seasonally good autumn period have started well and two recent periods (totaling 13 per cent) will show through in the second half. But the major uncertainty is how long the mini-boom in car-

pet sales can last; if it does not, CI could be stretched to match its first-half showing. Turning to the longer-term, while CI has slowed down its investment programme, it still remains at a fairly ambitious level—£1.1m was spent in the first half and £800,000 of its total commitments of £2.8m will fall in the second. Not all of this will be covered by depreciation and this coupled with rising interest charges—up from £700,000 to £950,000—raises doubts as to CI's ability to maintain the dividend. Particularly so, when the interim dividend of 31p a share gross was uncovered. But assuming no cut in the dividend, the yield is 12.5 per cent at 67p.

Interim: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization, £123m.
Sales, £41.5m (£36.8m).
Pre-tax profits, £10.69m (£2.63m).
Dividend gross, 3.5p (3.4p).

Empire Stores

Adopting a defensive line

Half-time profits from Empire Stores (Oxford) were much as expected. The very modest increase in sales—denoting a loss in market share even more marked than that revealed by Granada a couple of days ago—booked a dividend of 10p a share, regarded as the one undoubted growth situation of the mail order sector. Empire is promising "a more dynamic pace" when conditions permit; but in the meantime it is the defensive virtues which the group is displaying, with cash and near cash up by £2.5m-plus since the year-end, ahead of inclusion of the £1.75m proceeds of the rights issue, which came in at the beginning of the current half year.

The additional cash should be worth some £250,000 extra in the second half of the year, suggesting profits of something over £4m in all as against £3.58m last time; and that is with a company's target figure of 15 per cent growth per annum. Defensive virtues, however, were not enough to sustain the share price yesterday, and it dipped by 2p to 78p, where the prospective yield is just under 12 per cent. It will take more than that and the "cautious optimism" for which the chairman sees some reason to make the shares a buy.

Interim: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization, £17m.
Sales, £28.02m (£24.63m).
Pre-tax profits, £1.77m (£1.53m).
Dividend gross, 2.14p (1.96p).

Currys

Tough times ahead

It is no longer possible to assess Currys by reference to its traditional role as one of Britain's biggest consumer durable retailers. The face of the company, granted, the figures for the half year to end-July show things proceeding much as usual, with sales more than 27 per cent ahead and profits, against the depressed total for the corresponding period of 1974, reflecting rather more than mere recovery. Appearances are, however, deceptive. Volume sales have been heavily down since the imposition of higher VAT in the spring, and the apparent period of recovery in fact reflects the boom beforehand. Current profitability is "minimal".

Even so, the directors' hopes for total profits in the region of last year's £5.86m pre-tax are realistic enough. In the first place, there is the "traditional" Christmas period to come. In the second, the transfer from the provision for unamortized profit on credit trading—worth £1.65m in the

first half—will be a prop and stay again in the second, since there is a negligible amount of new HP business coming in. And, in the third, the very high cash balances should be worth some £500,000-plus in the current half-year.

Currys and its traditional image part company on the run down of the credit business and consequently of the reserve for unamortized profit—now at £5.42m as against £7.07m in months ago—which has been an unfailing source of buoyancy in times of trouble. This run-down, however, also works through into steadily increasing liquidity, and with a negligible tax bill it has been worth a £2m rise to some £10m in cash over the first six months of the year.

This may not appear much of a bull point, for the return which Currys can expect on cash will compare ill with the 20 per cent upwards in its traditionally achieved on capital employed; but then the latter figure is invalidated by what property values which are well and truly out of date.

At the least a capitalization 40 per cent backed by cash provides a handsome backdrop to the share price, despite the possibility of "a long period of very difficult trading conditions". It also means that the maximum permitted increase in the dividend can safely be assumed, putting the share at 81p onto a prospective yield of 7 per cent. Anyone prepared to accept their limited marketability should find them an interesting holding.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75)
Capitalization, £18.9m.
Sales, £52.82m (£41.48m).
Pre-tax profits, £4.44m (£2.26m).

Firth Brown

Specialist protection

There were hardly likely to be any surprises in the Johnson & Firth Brown figures for the year to end-July—given that the group had been forecast during the N. Greening takeover campaign in July. So with £8.29m pre-tax for the year—the forecast was for not less than £8.25m—the group has done much as had been expected. The least surprising part of the performance is the forecast for the second half, producing nearly two-thirds of the profits and running some 13 per cent ahead of the second half of 1973/74.

Of more interest to the market, then, was what JFB had to say about the "credit crunch" and here the message, while reflecting the reality of a more difficult trading background, is not unduly pessimistic. In short, JFB is tending to find orders, mainly in the less specialized product areas, but for the rest, is still being well served both by its increasing emphasis on the specialist end of the market and its £25m worth of new investment and modernization over the past five years.

Clearly, profits are not likely to be hit anything like as hard as looks like being the case in some parts of the engineering sector, though a fair amount obviously depends on whether Greening can cover the cost of servicing the preference shares that formed the major part of the bid consideration. With gearing post-Greening and the sale of the Daniel Doncaster dropping back to 1.1m, the group is at around 85 per cent, a yield of 12.4 per cent makes a good prop for the shares at 43p. But containing the short-term borrowing situation would still look to be a pre-requisite ahead of any economic recovery in 1976/77.

Final: 1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization, £23m.
Sales, £174m (£155m).
Pre-tax profits, £8.29m (£7.21m).
Earnings per share, 7.4p (7.2p).
Dividend gross, 5.35p (4.85p).

Arne Lundeborg, managing director of Skandia, the largest of Sweden's insurance companies, was the architect—with a few colleagues—in his pre-1970 days of a dispersed management system whose aim was to produce an efficient organization from the four large companies that now make up Skandia.

Because responsibility and a large measure of authority was placed well down the line, at a series of points in a "matrix" or grid system, it also involved many more personnel in the decision process than in the more usual hierarchical management pyramid. In a country already further ahead than most in worker participation techniques the Skandia system was in line with Swedish industrial philosophy.

But Mr Lundeborg and his senior colleagues are now being assailed by doubts—because of a significant acceleration in Sweden's march towards the more radical forms of worker participation sharing in management.

The Swedish experience so far, as well as the developments to come, could provide pointed lessons during Britain's own steps towards industrial democracy, as a government committee of inquiry sits to decide on methods of involving workforces in important company decisions.

The chances are that on January 1, 1977, new legislation will come into the will of Swedish workers, via their representatives at a number of levels, the right to consultation and negotiation on matters hitherto sacrosanct to management. Virtually any management decision on hiring and firing to changing work methods or cutting back or expanding production, could be challenged.

Effectively the legislation would oblige management to secure an agreement on all its decisions.

On the face of it this seems a recipe for socialization of industry that makes some British left-wing policies look like mere temporizing.

The Swedish debate which is now going on over this legislation—in the way that essentially pragmatic country has of modifying theory into something that is a practical proposition—additional ingredients are the quality of the ideas of Rudolf Meidner, the influential economist of the Confederation of Trade Unions, Sweden's TUC.

Mr Meidner has suggested that a proportion of all company profits should be progressively transferred to "worker" funds. Even the least profitable companies would be worker-controlled within 20 years or so.

Even the unions—who if they administered the funds could become extraordinarily powerful—do not seem to be in favour of the Meidner proposals becoming a legislative issue before the early 1980s. But, if only because of the balance of political power in Sweden, nobody can dismiss the Meidner ideas as unlikely to gain real backing in the country.

The Social Democratic government, in power for 40 years, now has a precarious electoral hold which could be upset at next year's national elections by the Centre Party, which is an anti-alist and inclined to assent private taxation.

This leaves the Social Democrats having at least to appear to be listening to the left wing with strong liking for strengthening worker power. There has been renewed government talk of nationalization, notably of the banks.

The government proposals, which it is planned to introduce in 1977, are for the moment being picked over by the government's legal machinery. A final decision will be made early next year, after six months or more of discussion.

Leaders of industry and commerce are well aware of what the problems could be. Decisions, hitherto possible at the

Swedish lessons in industrial power sharing



Mr Arne Lundeborg, managing director of Skandia, doubts about fresh proposals extending worker participation.

stroke of a pen, could be made only after cumbersome consultations and negotiations. Efficiency and profitability could be sacrificed to a new bureaucracy.

At worst, union militancy could be presented with a large new range of sensitive areas to prey upon. The final nightmare is what the *tokobsterna*, "crazy left", could make of the situation—they are credited with some, but by no means all, of the wildest strikes which have been a recent and worrying feature of Sweden's otherwise well-ordered industrial life.

Some companies have been moved to condemn the government proposals. Last week a spokesman at Saab-Scania, the motor and aircraft group, was quoted as sounding warning about economic and administrative problems that would seriously affect competitiveness.

But the striking thing, talking to the men in the boardrooms, is how, after already having moved to share the view of worker involvement and satisfaction as well as progressive improvement of working conditions and pay, they have little thought of halting or diverting the industrial democracy bandwagon.

At Skandia Mr Lundeborg said: "The major thing in the next few years is going to be the influence of the unions in pursuing participation. There are certain risks—everybody, for instance, knows the probability of the quality of some union people down the line who could make the system, the decision process, at the very least cumbersome."

But that is essentially a matter of education. And the unions themselves are aware of this. His deputy managing director, Gösta Almqvist, added this important rider on the effect on Skandia's matrix system of management: "The point about our system is that it has always had a certain built-in tension and that has proved to be a good thing. The new role of the unions will be another sort of dualism."

This essentially constructive attitude, even to such radical change, is also discernible at the headquarters of Volvo, the motor manufacturer, which is Sweden's largest private company.

Robert Dethorey, managing director of the car division and one of the seven men making up Volvo's corporate executive board, under the Gyllenhammar presidency, put it like this: "Everybody will be in question. Nobody has experience of the new situation that will be created."

One is hopeful that there will be understanding and respect between management and other bodies, and respect for the common target of the organization.

There may be mistakes at the start but you will come back to full understanding given the right information process. By knowing more, people would find their jobs more

interesting and do a more productive job."

Concrete ideas for adapting Volvo's management structure, already studied with works councils, are already being discussed. The object will be to build in worker participation in decisions at a number of levels, a pleasing idea to local union officials, although less so to some national officers.

At the Metalworkers Union, the largest single body in the Swedish confederation, Jan Rodan, secretary of the Nordic Metalworkers Federation, and Per Olaf Edin, head of the Swedish union's research department, talked of the need to keep a balance between local unions and the central organization.

They also talked of profit maximization while maintaining full employment and improving the working environment. Workers realized that, if the company lived, they lived. Productivity needed to be higher, even though Sweden's high wage costs were now less out of line with others in Western Europe.

Were some union people down the line ripe for the role they would be asked to play? That, they said, was a matter of trade union education and this was being pursued. They were realistic, rather than cynical, about the way the Swedish worker-director system had been operating in large and medium-sized companies there are two worker-directors on the board and most industrialists seemed to have found that the only value of the system had been in improving the process of keeping workers better informed, rather than more easily schooled into accepting company decisions.

Mr Rodan said: "Really, it's a good starting point. You get hold of the figures, you know what's going on—and that can be used in your own work. But, of course, the board can always meet on the telephone without the workers."

At least significantly, such union officials seem to share the view of most Swedes that whatever the eventual and political aims may be of various groups, the valid approach is essentially through discussion, and practicing the art of the possible.

Such a theme, realistic—the "crazy left" apart, and it is arguably, could gain strength if a world trade upturn does not keep the high-cost Swedish export engine turning over—could take the Swedes a long way on their march towards ultimate forms of industrial democracy.

The Swedish experience so far offers obvious lessons to the British Labour Government in its drive towards industrial democracy. In Britain, so far, the Employment Protection Bill and the new Bill on disclosure of information for greater disclosure of information and for workforces to be more closely involved in future planning.

A committee of inquiry is now considering how a work force could participate in making important company decisions through representation at board level.

Certainly the Swedish experience of the worker-director concept has not been judged as successful as it is, say, West Germany. But their pursuit of an open society in the industrial context, with constant efforts to improve the information process, has in many ways been fruitful.

But only after the new legislation comes in will there be anything like an answer to the cardinal question whether, even with a preponderance of good will and common sense from both management and workers, shared decision-taking will share the line will be a workable proposition—whether it will be a dynamic dualism rather than a recipe for balked decisions, progressive inefficiency, flagging profits and a decline in the living standards in which Sweden is at present one of the world's leaders.

Derek Harris

Sincere and foggy notions

Aviemore, Wednesday. Many people have wondered for some time how exactly Lord Ryder (formerly Sir Don Ryder) reconciles to himself his past as a paragon of private enterprise with his present role as chief storm-trooper of state intervention and extended public ownership in industry as the head of the National Enterprise Board Organizing Committee. At today's sixth International Forum of the Scottish Council, in the pleasantly bracing mountain fastnesses of Aviemore, he gave his answer.

In effect this was: "If you cannot bear them, join them." The present trend, he said, was one "which we must accept as inevitable". Nor did he believe that "there is anything peculiar or particularly disturbing about the current extent of government involvement in industry."

"Much of the discussion about government involvement in industry, because it arouses such strong and opposing passions, overlooks," he said, "the following basic facts:

- (i) It has been going on for a very long time;
- (ii) It has been continued under successive governments of different political complexions;
- (iii) It exists in varying degrees in most industrial countries."

The same "basic facts" could, of course, also be cited on behalf of crime, disease, inflation and fallacious reasoning by those in important positions of public responsibility. Yet we do not conclude that it is wrong or futile to struggle against such evils, however inevitable and normal they may be.

Lord Ryder was not, however, complacent in detail, even if he believed that the general pattern of state intervention in industry was a prick against which it was unnecessary and futile to kick. He hoped that "we could move towards a more stable relationship which would give full scope for the Government to exercise its responsibilities for the national economy and would give industry as much scope as possible for initiative and enterprise."

The Government thus gets "full scope", while industry gets only "as much scope as possible"—with the Government presumably deciding how much is possible. Even this, he said, "must be a long and patient process" long on doubt on the Government's part and patient on industry's. But Lord Ryder knew what it would take.

Specifically, industry must evince "a keener recognition of its wider responsibilities—not just to its shareholders but also to its workers, to the local community, to the nation and to society." Secondly, "on the Government's part there should be a more strategic and less detailed approach to control and intervention, both in the publicly-owned and in the privately-owned sectors of industry—the discussion of forward plans and annual budgets can provide the basis for this; once these are agreed, the Government should try as far as possible to refrain from further short-term interference."

If this does not make your hair stand on end, you must be bald. Note the insouciance with which it is taken for granted that governments will "agree" to not just the forward plans (anyone can invent some fancy speculation to keep Whitehall happy), but also the annual budgets of private firms.

It is hardly surprising that, having determined these, governments would "as far as possible" refrain from further interference—so would the headquarters office of any medium-sized company which practised even the smallest vestiges of delegated responsibility along the lines recommended to management elsewhere.

where in Lord Ryder's remarks.

But the really serious omission from Lord Ryder's case is any attempt at all to state and explain the criteria by which government will reach decisions about how to exercise its extended influence over industry. What are its aims and how does it determine what deployment of resources will most nearly optimize the fulfilment of those aims?

Lord Ryder went out of his way to pour scorn on Adam Smith—"a fair-weather world"—a bold gesture in the eyes of the bicentenary of *The Wealth of Nations*. But at least the admirable Smith attempted to explain how and why he expected the "hidden hand" to lead to the best use of resources.

From the practitioners of state intervention we get no such comprehensive model for decision-making, indeed no indication at all of how the wretched civil servant at the working level is actually going to decide how much ought to

Peter Jay

Economics Editor

be invested where and in what for production of how much and for sale to whom at what price.

Not only is government going to intervene without the foggiest notion, or at least with notions only of a kind, of what industry should be doing, but industry itself, in so far as it is left any discretion at all in its affairs, is to be invited to abandon even those criteria which it has. So industrialists and bureaucrats can wonder around together, blindfold in the same fog, groping after undefined "wider responsibilities" such a government unto itself, each substituting its own arbitrary guesses at what will contribute to the welfare of society for the disciplined preference of the consumer in the market place.

The mind boggles at such a prospect. It is like trying to imagine a society in which language is thought by the people, using it to have no meaning or in which there is thought to be no difference between truth and lies, or in which no conduct is thought to be in any way preferable to any other.

There can be no question whatever of the sincerity and passion which Lord Ryder brings to his task. It may be that his own substitute for *The Wealth of Nations* is in the back of his mind somewhere. But it would be nice to know, so that it can be critically appraised; and usual such appraisal proves positive, one is bound to be unpersuaded by justifications which apply equally well to all the other commitments of Britain's relative industrial decline.

To judge from Lord Ryder's own response here to questions he sees the basic criteria for decisions by the National Enterprise Board as being traditional commercial ones, with government taking direct responsibility for any deviation from commercial criteria. This merely pushes the question back a stage.

If the criteria are clearly commercial, what is the need for government intervention? If it is that private capital is no longer forthcoming, that is presumably because it cannot earn a reasonable return.

In that case where is the commercial justification for investment by the National Enterprise Board? In so far as government substitutes non-commercial criteria, what are they?

So far we have been offered nothing more than glorified alchemy, which gives no prospect whatever of an optimal use of resources from anyone's point of view.

Business Diary: On the buses • Lobby correspondence

While London's commuters shiver in the streets because there are not enough buses for them (the situation is so bad that London Transport is hiring vehicles from places like Southend) readers of *African Development* magazine are being asked to buy—you've guessed it—London buses.

The reason for this oddity, London Transport says, is that the buses in question are part of the Red Arrow fleet, introduced some years ago. The idea of the work Arrow was to indicate that they would go faster than conventional buses, but about the only arrow-like quality they turned out to have was a great desire to go in a straight line and difficulty in turning corners when they get going. They are, London Transport says, totally unsuitable for London conditions.

Without wasting time asking questions like why wasn't this discovered before public money was spent on them, surely any bus would be better than nothing?

Not so, London Transport says. It is so short of spare parts and new buses that its engineers are already working flat out cannibalizing existing buses, particularly fairly new ones which have a gearbox which apparently finds it difficult to cope with town traffic.

Besides, it adds, we have to start trying to sell them now because it takes a long time to sell them overseas and British bus companies will not buy them because they receive a special government grant for buying new buses, aimed partly

at encouraging the bus-making industry. Unfortunately, it is difficult to get these new buses because the bus industry cannot cope with demand and has trouble getting spare parts for the ones it has already sold.

Waiting time for deliveries is roughly nine months for new buses and London Transport and other users have criticised British Leyland, Leyland, on the other hand, says the problem is that it has had strikes and that the bus operating companies seem to vary the level of their orders from one year to another, which makes it difficult to plan ahead. (Though how many industries have exactly the same demand every year is open to question.)

It is Leyland insists, not its fault, "it's part of the total situation we're in," a company official said—whatever that may mean.

TUC curiosity

Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, was reluctantly involved in a curious episode which this week promises an internal row between members of the National Union of Journalists, a TUC affiliate.

David Chipp, editor of the Press Association news agency, is to instruct two of his industrial correspondents, Gordon Clark and Jim Foulkes, to withdraw from the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group after an incident at Congress House on Tuesday.

The group is the industrial version of the political correspondents' lobby which used to

have private meetings with the Prime Minister or his spokesman, Jim Haines, until the practice was discontinued by Downing Street earlier this year.

Tuesday's meeting, which seems to have got off to a poor start, was one of the monthly get-togethers at which the group members (there are 70 in all) chew the fat with Murray. But a number of non-group journalists turned up, among them Charles Goodson, PA's chief industrial correspondent.

Goodson, and some other reporters, among them a BBC man, were then asked to leave by a TUC functionary, others by fellow journalists who were members of the group.

The PA correspondent at first declined and says that he received a personal invitation from the TUC to the meeting. Other reporters apparently received invitations which seem not to have made it sufficiently clear that it was to be a group-only do.

Eventually, however, Goodson and others left, and Murray and the group "chewed the fat" about life. Chipp, Goodson says, is to withdraw Clark and Foulkes because it is an editor's job to say who will represent PA at meetings, not the TUC's or the group's. More protests may follow.

The chairman of the group is Glen Allan, industrial correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post*, part of the United Newspapers group which is in turn one of

the syndicate of regional papers that own the *PA*. Goodson allowed his group membership to lapse when membership fees went up too sharply for his taste.

Executives of state-owned *Govan Shipbuilders* on the Upper Clyde may well find that at least some of their workers do not need to press quite so hard during the next round of pay bargaining. A syndicate of the shipyard—which in August received a further £17m of public money to cover losses and modernization costs—is to share in a £532,962 pools win.

If the £17m is not enough, the company can always pass the hat around among the lads.

Oilman's honour

American oilman Bob Dyk will next month join a small but growing band of Americans to receive a British honour. The United Kingdom manager of Hamilton Brothers Oil and Gas, based at Denver, Colorado—joint operators of the Argyll field in the North Sea and the first to get oil ashore—has been appointed an honorary Commander of the British Empire and will receive his insignia from the hands of Energy Secretary Tony Benn next month.

It was on June 18 this year that Benn was using both hands to turn the valve which brought ashore the first oil from Argyll, the tanker *Theognetos* at a ceremony on the Isle of Grain. Dyk trained as a geophysicist and worked for several oil

companies before joining the Hamilton operation in Britain in 1964. The award has been made in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of the United Kingdom offshore oil industry.

Dyk is also a council member of the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association, in whose development he has played an important role. Hamilton began drilling in the North Sea in 1966 in cooperation with a number of other interests including RTZ, Blackfriars Oil and Trans-European Company.

He is the third American citizen to be created a CBE this year, but tracking down precisely how many such awards have been dished out to Americans in recent years is well nigh impossible. The Department of Energy, who handled the Dyk announcement, referred *Business Diary* to either Number 10, Downing Street, or Buckingham Palace, who said the man at Energy should be able to provide the figures.

Buckingham Palace regretted that they did not categorize awards in such a way and suggested that Downing Street was the best bet.

A toiler in that vineyard offered to look into the matter and some hours later a man from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office rang to say sorry, but the best he could do was to affirm that the tally of United States citizens honoured so far this year was two KBEs, three CBEs, two OBEs and four MBEs.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Investors on the sidelines

After two days of significant movement the London stock market went back into the doldrums yesterday as the number of bargains struck fell below the 5,000 mark.

Prices stayed in a narrowly mixed range for most of the day, but some late firmness left the FT index 0.8 better, to 330.6, at the close. After hours, this trend was accelerated as rumours circulated of details today of cuts in public spending. But most observers, both inside and outside the market, discounted the possibility of such an announcement.

Gilt had another uncertain day. "Shorts" were busy, with the main feature some switching into the short-dated "tap", Treasury 91 per cent, 1980. As demand built up the Government broker raised his price by 1/16 point and helped stocks to recover early losses. By the end of trading, small gains on the day were common.

A flurry of buying in Hanson Textile turned the shares 4p to 10p after reports of a significant "upturn" in the United States textile industry. Last month, Hanson paid £17m for the textile interests of Indian Head.

The longer end remained unsettled, with the Consolidated Fund figures still clouding sentiment at the opening. Losses ranged up to 1 point. Dealers said their business was not particularly heavy.

On such a quiet day there were a surprising number of equity features thrown up by bid situations. Pride of place, for once, must go to that "permanence" bid candidate Furness Withy, where the announcement that talks with Eurocanadian on future trading cooperation had been broken off was interpreted as the prelude to an all-out bid from the Canadian group. The shares jumped 9p to 225p after 232p.

Elsewhere, AD International, waiting for fresh terms from Denbury, of the United States, were 3p firmer at 96p, while Anglo-Thames, still hoping for better things from Inchcape, put on 6p to 157p. Pernal's rejection of BTR's terms added a penny to 28p and both Braby Leslie 46p and Glywed 83p

were wanted—the latter jumped 4p.

The leaders presented a mixed picture, typical being ICI 283p, BMT 203p and Dunlop 54p, all easier by a penny.

Faring worse were Fisons, down 6p to 374p, and Glaxo, due to report on Monday, easier by 5p to 355p. In the case of Glaxo, the market is not particularly optimistic over the results and expects profits to be slightly down at about £42m before tax.

Banks and insurance were generally steady, though Minet Holdings (up 10p to 172p) were in demand after higher first-half profits and a rights issue pitched at a favourable terms.

The last named has proved to be a very weak market recently with renewed fears that higher interest rates will cut into profits markedly.

After drifting early in the day, oil shares ended on a firmer note. BP 53p and Shell 347p were ahead by 8p and 2p respectively.

Gold was also narrowly mixed in a quiet session, but De Beers wanted again and rose 8p to 282p.

From a significant list of companies reporting, Empire Stores results at halfway were much as expected and the shares finished 2p off to 78p. Grattan, which reported on Tuesday, were a point firmer to 87p and Currys were also firmer after

an interim. Wm Morrison were also firmer in stores.

Both Lawtex 30p and Carpets International 67p were untouched by statements, as were Hunt & Moscrop, at 12p.

Johnson & Firth Brown added a penny to 43p after a full-year return. News that the Negretti & Zambra instrumentation group has decided to close its Bond Street, London, retail outlet because of a rise in the rent had the shares a penny firmer at 38p.

Shares of Brooke Bond Liebig were actively traded at 37p after rumours that Unilever may bid circulated again. There was no comment from Unilever.

The new shares of Babcock & Wilcox traded at 42p, while Howard Machinery were a firm market at 49p.

The after-hours activity had the leaders adding as much as 4p. Gilts frequently improved by up to one-eighth, but the clearing banks proved to be a soft spot shedding about 4p each.

This reflects the hardening view that a call for special deposits may not be far away. Industrial had a weak spot in William Baird which went down 10p on the winding up of the Sierra Leone mining operation. Equity turnover on October 7 was £44.83m (12,373 bargains).

According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were Royal Insurance new, ICI, Shell, Babcock & Wilcox new, Marks & Spencer, BP, Distillers, British American Tobacco, Midland Bank, IC Gas new, Commercial Union, Wolstenholme Bronze, Westland, Glywed, Braby Leslie and Furness Withy.

Latest dividends

Company (and per values)	Div	Year ago	Year's date	Year's total	Prev
Ash & Lacy (25p) Int	3.6	2.5	3/10	7.41	7.41
Christies Int (10p) Int	0.75	0.75	28/11	3.7	3.7
Coltress Group (25p) Int	0.73	0.69	3/10	1.36	1.36
East British (25p) Int	1.3	1.3	10/10	2.6	2.6
Empire Stores (25p) Int	1.39	1.31	18/11	2.90	2.90
External Int (10p) Int	1.5	1.25	14/11	3.7	3.7
Gedong Int (10p) Int	0.32	0.28	28/11	1.16	1.16
Johnson & Firth (25p) Fin	2.6	2.37	16/11	3.25	3.25
Lawtex (25p) Fin	1.32	1.32	4/12	2.58	2.58
Ldg & Strathclyde (25p) Fin	0.76	0.76	28/11	1.2	1.2
P. & W. MacLellan (25p) Int	0.5	0.5	14/11	1.3	1.3
Naywords (10p) Fin	11.15	10.57	28/11	15.76	14.77
Minet Holdings (20p) Int	2.14	1.36	14/11	1.61	1.61
Stag Furniture (25p) Int	2.2	2.0	25/11	5.25	5.25
Transatlantic (10p) Int	1.5	1.35	14/11	3.7	3.7
do, do, do (10p) Fin	1.5	1.45	3/10	2.7	2.7
Wombwell (10p) Fin	0.64	0.64	26/11	0.97	0.97

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. *Forecast. †Adjusted for scrip.

P. & W. MacLellan
Sales for half-year to June 30 up from £2.42m to £2.56m, but pre-tax profit down from £126,000 to £62,000. No corporation tax payable for period.

LAUGHTON
Turnover in six months to end-June expanded from £3.22m to £3.56m. Pre-tax profit dipped from £269,000 to £202,000.

Coltress picks up
Higher raw materials and labour costs hurt the profit margins at Coltress Group, but

Ash & Lacy is still ahead as group gets trustee status

By Our Financial Editor

At £568,000 Ash & Lacy's interim profits are running slightly ahead of last year. But Mr Fane Vernon, chairman of this West Midlands metal stockholder and processor, again warns shareholders that the company may be unable to match the 1974 profit of £12m.

Nevertheless, given "exceptionally difficult trading conditions", it is likely to be a good year. An interim dividend of 5.5p a share gross is being paid on the capital in-

creased by the £536,000 rights issue earlier this year, and the board expects to pay a 4.5p a share gross on the capital after a one-for-two scrip issue which is now being proposed.

This scrip increases Ash & Lacy's issued capital to over £1m and thus gives the company trustee status.

Mr Vernon says that trading conditions in the first six months have been particularly poor in the steel and non-ferrous processing and stockholding businesses. But he points out that current results are being achieved without any

returns as yet from the new £2m Siderex Steel Sheet Service Centre, which is expected to start contributing from 1976/77.

However, the financial position of the company is strong. Short borrowings, reflecting the impact of the rights issue, had been reduced by £746,000 to £763,000 at the end of June. Since then tax repayments have brought in a further £121,000. As such, interest charges, which in the first half of this year were up from £91,000 to £165,000, should be substantially down in the second half.

Wm Morrison shows signs of slowing in peak year

The swift progress of Yorkshire's Wm Morrison Supermarkets shows signs of slackening, but the latest news is good for all that. In the six months to July 31 sales soared by 48 per cent to £224m but pre-tax profits rose by only 11.6 per cent to £719,731.

Mr K. D. Morrison and his colleagues say they find it impossible to forecast this year's profits accurately, but they do expect sales to beat £48m. If so, that would be an increase of at least 38 per cent on the year to January 31 last. Pre-tax profits in that year rose by 25 per cent.

The directors explain that because

interest rates dropped and £650,000 was spent on new stores. Operating costs rose at an unprecedented rate which the company tackled by controlling spending and using labour better. New developments at Hunslet, Rothwell and Horsforth, and a rebuilt Mayo store are going to plan, and they should be trading successfully in the second half of 1976.

All this is good going for what the chairman saw as a year of consolidation even if it did start with sales as much as 50 per cent up. As usual there is interim dividend. The group normally declares a single dividend in May. The last one was 2.5p a share gross.

Minet rises on rights issue

With profits moving ahead and a maximum allowed dividend payment promised for the year to December 31, Minet Holdings, an insurance broking group, is planning a 2-for-3 rights issue. It is hoped to raise about £3.1m to strengthen the group's capital base. The shares will be issued at par, or 20p.

The existing shares jumped 10p to 172p on the news. The issue will not be underwritten.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 rose from £242m to £293m, and the board expects them to grow this year by at least 15 per cent. This indicates a record profit of more than £5.7m, against £4.9m.

The interim dividend goes up from 2.02p gross adjusted for a scrip issue to 2.33p. Earnings a share are 5.67p, against 5.5p.

"excellent" trading in the fastenings division enabled the group to recover in the six months to June 30 from the downturn suffered in the second half of 1974.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 rose from a record £239,000 to £241,000 on turnover of £3.27m, against £2.7m. The dividend rises from 1.03p to 1.12p. Mr Eric Gibbons, chairman, believes that profits for the full year will be better than 1974's £401,000.

Stag Furniture to beat forecast

Stag Furniture, the Nottingham-based furniture maker, should have no trouble in fulfilling its May forecast of pre-tax profits of £910,000 this year. Indeed it should beat this, because newcomer Yorton Furniture will be contributing in the second six months. In the half year to June 28 Yorton contributed nothing, but even so turnover rose from £2.76m to £3.81m, sending up pre-tax profits from £371,000 to £511,000.

BPB takes over

BPB Industries, makers of gypsum, plaster and plasterboard, has acquired a further 44 per cent of the equity of the French company Placoplatre for £340m. This now brings BPB and its associates' holdings in Placoplatre to 98 per cent. Placoplatre is France's leading gypsum plasterboard manufacturer, with a turnover of about £23.2m last year. Pre-tax profits of the French company last year were about £200,000.

Wombwell 54pc ahead

The dramatic recovery at Wombwell Foundry and Engineering continues. Having recovered from losses of £74,000 to record profits of £174,000 last year, the group has gone on to push profits up 54 per cent to £270,000 for the year to July 31.

Turnover, jumped from £1.5m to £2.15m. The board wants the Treasury to bless a dividend payment of 1.41p, against 1.1p. Earnings a share were 4.27p against 2.59p. At half time a "substantially" improved result for the full year was foreseen.

Hunt & Moscrop scrip

Proposing a one-for-four scrip Hunt & Moscrop (Middleton), paper, making and textile machinery, with interests in heat exchangers, processes and chemical plant, at the same time reports a 52 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £741,000 for the year to June 30. Sales in turn were more than doubled at £11.1m. At half-time, Mr E. W. Jones, chairman, said heat exchangers, processes and chemical plant would account for 45 per cent of sales.

Eurobonds prices (midday indicators)

STRAIGHTS	Mid	Offer
AIRC 10 1/8 1981	100 1/8	101 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8
Alstom 10 1/8 1981	99 1/8	100 1/8

A valid mid-session climb gained altitude following New York City's recovery from a 5 per cent to a 2 per cent rise in City department budgets—although unions threatened a general strike over the order.

While Dr Arthur Burns, Federal Reserve chairman, declined in testimony before Congress to support direct Federal aid for the City, he made central suggestions regarding any such plan. Earlier he said that a New York City default would upset securities markets, though temporarily.

Silver closes 17c down

New York, Oct 8.—SILVER futures closed 17c down at 30.00 cents before recovering to 29.83 cents in the last trading. The metal closed at 30.00 cents, down from 30.17 cents. The local market was quiet, with the local price at 30.00 cents. The London market was quiet, with the local price at 30.00 cents.

Trading in world sugar futures was quiet today on light news. The market was down 1/8 cent to 12.00 cents. The local market was quiet, with the local price at 12.00 cents.

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Christies in retreat but autumn looks good

After last year's fall in pre-tax profits from a record £2.16m to £1.54m, Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, slipped from £843,000 to £664,000 in the six months to June 30. Turnover made only a little headway from £3.06m to £3.12m. The dividend is 1.15p, against 1.11p.

The board says the profit fall reflected "general uncertainty in the art world, and in this context the result is not wholly unsatisfactory."

The group has made stringent economies. The subject of its buyers' premium, recently introduced in London to offset the decline in margins, the board says that the move should operate effectively.

Prospects for the autumn season, which includes a number of major sales both at home and overseas, are said to be good. Mr I. Chance, the chairman, considers that the group is ready to take advantage of every opportunity offered by the international art market which is still buoyant.

Pernali challenges BTR bid as 'ridiculously low'

The fight promised by Gloucester-based specialist engineer Pernali a month ago in resisting a takeover bid from BTR, the rubber products group, valuing the company at some £2.2m, is now brought to a head. (BTR already holds some 38.7 per cent and its cash offer a share is only 21p above Pernali's share price of 27p.)

Representing an attempt to obtain shareholders' entitlements at a "ridiculously low price," said Mr A. Heath, Pernali chairman, the bid did not in any way reflect either past performance or future prospects; it undervalued earnings and assets, and took no account of Pernali's excellent future prospects. In the light of current trading, his board believed it would be justified in doubling the gross equivalent of the dividends paid last year on this basis some 2.5p, covering 1.8 times by last year's profits. Generally, the benefits from widening the product and geographic base have been amply demonstrated.

Neither the directors nor the trustees of the L.W. Robson family trusts will accept for their holdings representing 8 per cent of the total equity and some 13.3 per cent of the shares subject to the offer.

O. C. SUMMERS (HOLDINGS)

Warren Tea Holdings has acquired a further 14,000 shares in Summers making a total of 733,000 (35.54 per cent).

NORWELT HOLIST

Company wishes to make it clear that the directors have decided that Mr James MacMillan should vacate the boardroom, and that the delay in issuing the accounts flows from negotiations about the technical and potential excess of the company's borrowing limits under its articles and trust deeds.

ZOCKOL GROUP

Dyno-Rod turnover for 1974 jumped from £1.17m to £1.75m and pre-tax profits rose from £113,565 to £209,204. Associate company, Pilsbury Ltd, showed an increase in sales from £474,888 to £526,196 and a turnaround from a £26,841 loss to a profit of £28,826.

EXTERNAL INVESTMENT
Post-tax profit for half-year to September 30, £34,000 (£66,000). Interim dividend of 2.5p gross, and board forecasts final of similar amount making 4.51p gross (against 4.06p gross).

LONDON & STRATHCLYDE TRUST

Revenue, £579,000 (£715,000) for year to end-August.

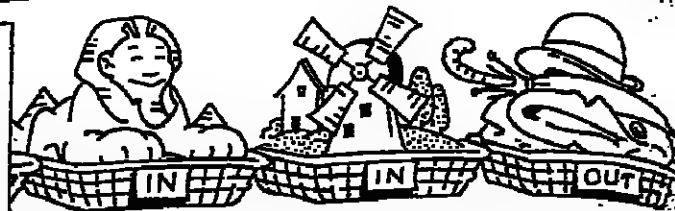
Commodities

COPPER

caused slightly. Cash bars dropping 0.5 and three months' futures 0.25. The market was mixed, with some firmness in the afternoon. Copper 30.00, 30.10, 30.20, 30.30, 30.40, 30.50, 30.60, 30.70, 30.80, 30.90, 31.00, 31.10, 31.20, 31.30, 31.40, 31.50, 31.60, 31.70, 31.80, 31.90, 32.00, 32.10, 32.20, 32.30, 32.40, 32.50, 32.60, 32.70, 32.80, 32.90, 33.00, 33.10, 33.20, 33.30, 33.40, 33.50, 33.60, 33.70, 33.80, 33.90, 34.00, 34.10, 34.20, 34.30, 34.40, 34.50, 34.60, 34.70, 34.80, 34.90, 35.00, 35.10, 35.20, 35.30, 35.40, 35.50, 35.60, 35.70, 35.80, 35.90, 36.00, 36.10, 36.20, 36.30, 36.40, 36.50, 36.60, 36.70, 36.80, 36.90, 37.00, 37.10, 37.20, 37.30, 37.40, 37.50, 37.60, 37.70, 37.80, 37.90, 38.00, 38.10, 38.20, 38.30, 38.40, 38.50, 38.60, 38.70, 38.80, 38.90, 39.00, 39.10, 39.20, 39.30, 39.40, 39.50, 39.60, 39.70, 39.80, 39.90, 40.00, 40.10, 40.20, 40.30, 40.40, 40.50, 40.60, 40.70, 40.80, 40.90, 41.00, 41.10, 41.20, 41.30, 41.40, 41.50, 41.60, 41.70, 41.80, 41.90, 42.00, 42.10, 42.20, 42.30, 42.40, 42.50, 42.60, 42.70, 42.80, 42.90, 43.00, 43.10, 43.20, 43.30, 43.40, 43.50, 43.60, 43.70, 43.80, 43.90, 44.00, 44.10, 44.20, 44.30, 44.40, 44.50, 44.60, 44.70, 44.80, 44.90, 45.00, 45.10, 45.20, 45.30, 45.40, 45.50, 45.60, 45.70, 45.80, 45.90, 46.00, 46.10, 46.20, 46.30, 46.40, 46.50, 46.60, 46.70, 46.80, 46.90, 47.00, 47.10, 47.20, 47.30, 47.40, 47.50, 47.60, 47.70, 47.80, 47.90, 48.00, 48.10, 48.20, 48.30, 48.40, 48.50, 48.60, 48.70, 48.80, 48.90, 49.00, 49.10, 49.20, 49.30, 49.40, 49.50, 49.60, 49.70, 49.80, 49.90, 50.00, 50.10, 50.20, 50.30, 50.40, 50.50, 50.60, 50.70, 50.80, 50.90, 51.00, 51.10, 51.20, 51.30, 51.40, 51.50, 51.60, 51.70, 51.80, 51.90, 52.00, 52.10, 52.20, 52.30, 52.40, 52.50, 52.60, 52.70, 52.80, 52.90, 53.00, 53.10, 53.20, 53.30, 53.40, 53.50, 53.60, 53.70, 53.80, 53.90, 54.00, 54.10, 54.20, 54.30, 54.40, 54.50, 54.60, 54.70, 54.80, 54.90, 55.00, 55.10, 55.20, 55.30, 55.40, 55.50, 55.60, 55.70, 55.80, 55.90, 56.00, 56.10, 56.20, 56.30, 56.40, 56.50, 56.60, 56.70, 56.80, 56.90, 57.00, 57.10, 57.20, 57.30, 57.40, 57.50, 57.60, 57.70, 57.80, 57.90, 58.00, 58.10, 58.20, 58.30, 58.40, 58.50, 58.60, 58.70, 58.80, 58.90, 59.00, 59.10, 59.20, 59.30, 59.40, 59.50, 59.60, 59.70, 59.80, 59.90, 60.00, 60.10, 60.20, 60.30, 60.40, 60.50, 60.60, 60.70, 60.80, 60.90, 61.00, 61.10, 61.20, 61.30, 61.40, 61.50, 61.60, 61.70, 61.80, 61.90, 62.00, 62.10, 62.20, 62.30, 62.40, 62.50, 62.60, 62.70, 62.80, 62.90, 63.00, 63.10, 63.20, 63.30, 63.40, 63.50, 63.60, 63.70, 63.80, 63.90, 64.00, 64.10, 64.20, 64.30, 64.40, 64.50, 64.60, 64.70, 64.80, 64.90, 65.00, 65.10, 65.20, 65.30, 65.40, 65.50, 65.60, 65.70, 65.80, 65.90, 66.00, 66.10, 66.20, 66.30, 66.40, 66.50, 66.60, 66.70, 66.80, 66.90, 67.00, 67.10, 67.20, 67.30, 67.40, 67.50, 67.60, 67.70, 67.80, 67.90, 68.00, 68.10, 68.20, 68.30, 68.40, 68.50, 68.60, 68.70, 68.80, 68.90, 69.00, 69.10, 69.20, 69.30, 69.40, 69.50, 69.60, 69.70, 69.80, 69.90, 70.00, 70.10, 70.20, 70.30, 70.40, 70.50, 70.60, 70.70, 70.80, 70.90, 71.00, 71.10, 71.20, 71.30, 71.40, 71.50, 71.60, 71.70, 71.80, 71.90, 72.00, 72.10, 72.20, 72.30, 72.40, 72.50, 72.60, 72.70, 72.80, 72.90, 73.00, 73.10, 73.20, 73.30, 73.40, 73.50, 73.60, 73.70, 73.80, 73.90, 74.00, 74.10, 74.20, 74.30, 74.40, 74.50, 74.60, 74.70, 74.80, 74.90,



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Costa Rica

HEAD OF BEEF DEPARTMENT

HEAD OF DAIRY DEPARTMENT

The Central American Animal Husbandry Institute, Atenas a new institute including 321 hectares farm is being established 30 miles from San Jose to provide 3 year post secondary residential diploma courses in Animal Husbandry with strong practical as well as theoretical bias to students from Costa Rica and other Latin American countries. A British Principal and Farm Manager already in post. Meat farm and teaching equipment will be British.

The 2 Departmental Heads one of whom will also be appointed as Vice Principal must have teaching experience at an agricultural college or farm school/institute as well as overseas experience. They must be prepared to undertake intensive Spanish instruction. The Head of Beef Department should have special knowledge of meat cattle and economics; the Head of Dairy Department, special knowledge of dairy farming and pasture ground in tropical areas (agrostology). They should possess a degree in agriculture, diploma or HNC with teaching and preferably overseas tropical experience. Selected applicants aged between 35-50 years should be available by March 1976. Initial duties will include drawing up technician level courses in preparation for first student intake expected early 1977. Initial appointments 2 years with probable extension.

Salary in range £5,000-£6,800 p.a. or exceptionally higher plus variable tax free overseas allowance in range £465-£1,635 p.a. Other benefits include free family passages, paid leave, children's education allowances and free accommodation and medical attention. All emoluments paid by the British Government. Applicants should normally be citizens of the United Kingdom. For further information and application forms please apply giving age and brief details of qualifications and experience to:

Appointments Officer, Room E 301

Ministry of Overseas Development

Eleand House, Stag Place
London SW1E 5NH



United Nations Secretariat

ECONOMISTS FOR NEW YORK AND BANGKOK

NEW YORK: Centre for Development Planning, Projection and Policy. Macro-economist for research to assist policy formulation and planning. Knowledge of French or Spanish an asset. Salary at least US\$15,970.

BANGKOK: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Development economist for work on planning and problems. Extensive travel possible. Knowledge of French or an Asian language an asset. Salary at least US\$14,420.

Candidates (UK Nationals only) should be aged under 30 and must have a good honours (or post graduate) degree in economics. Further details and application form (returnable by 24 October 1975) from Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service if office closed) or London 01-839 1992 (24 hour answering service). Please quote A/9151/2.

J. N. FOMENKY Enterprises

DOUALA, CAMEROON

J. N. Fomenky, importers and exporters (produce buyers), have the following vacancies:-

MANAGER

To be responsible for overall control, management and supervision of the Produce Department.

ACCOUNTANT

To be in charge of Finance Department. Both positions require experience and a knowledge of French would be an advantage. References will be necessary. Accommodation and car provided. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Interviews to be held in London on the 15th October.

Please ring: Mr. J. N. Fomenky at the Kensington Hilton
01-603 3355
on 14th October.

supply inventory clerks

Temporary appointments in Saudi Arabia

We are urgently looking for men or women with experience in a supplies/stores environment to work on a temporary basis for 60 days in Saudi Arabia. Candidates should be single, in good health and be free to travel to Saudi Arabia at short notice.

Prime requirements are:

- * Accurate typing at 40 wpm.
- * Thorough knowledge of cataloguing, parts listing and entering prices on a supply "KARDEX" or other type of supply stock ledger.
- * Neat handwriting.
- * Thorough knowledge of Alpha/Numeric filing systems.
- * Thorough understanding of and ability to interpret the various types of supply transaction documents i.e. packing sheet, shipping manifest, vendor invoice, bill of lading, air bills.

Previous experience in medical supplies and data processing an advantage but not essential.

You will work a 44 hour week with overtime paid at 1½ times the normal rate, hotel accommodation will be provided. Daily food allowance.

All passport/visa/immunisation expenses and air fares to and from the UK will be paid for by the company.

Any medical/dental expenses incurred in Saudi Arabia will also be paid for by the company.

Please telephone 01-492 0921 and ask for Alan Holt, our Recruitment Manager, for further details and arrangement for time of interview.

Whittaker Life Sciences Limited
76 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1



YOUNG LADY TEACHER Tokyo

Japanese gentleman, principal of a tutorial school in Tokyo, requires a young English lady for English conversation and to teach 10 to 15 year olds in the school.

Knowledge of Japanese language not necessary. She need not be a qualified teacher but must have an excellent command of written and spoken Queen's English. A university graduate would be preferred.

Separate flat and maid provided.

Salary £4,800 per annum.

Return flight paid.

One year minimum.

Able to start 31st October, 1975.

Please telephone 01-262 6737

Extension 1212 on Saturday

or Sunday for interview.

INSTITUT FÜR
SOZIALRECHT,
UNIVERSITY OF THE
RUHR, BOCHUM

The Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society has agreed to give a postgraduate research grant to a candidate for a PhD in the field of industrial relations, at the University of the Ruhr, Bochum. The grant is for 12 months, beginning in January 1976. It is open to British and foreign students. The candidate should have appropriate academic training and/or practical experience in industrial relations, and should be able to speak English. The grant is for the study of industrial relations in the Ruhr area. The candidate should submit a proposal to the Foundation, 10, St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, from whom further information can be obtained.

Overseas Development

Ghana

Training Development Officer (Accountancy)

To assist the Comptroller and Accountant-General in development of scheme to professionalise Government Accounting Services, involving creation of qualifying examinations and national arrangements for various public service accountancy subjects, and to provide training based on these subjects. Applicants should be qualified public service accountants, preferably IMA, with some post-qualification working and teaching experience. Professional qualifications in public finance or administration, and overseas experience desirable. Appointment for 2 years of 18 months.

Salary according to qualifications and experience plus a variable tax-free overseas allowance in range £395-£2,045 p.a.

Peru

Adviser—Accountancy

At the State-owned fish canning and freezing plant to advise on all accountancy problems and deal with a full range of cost-accounting functions, with emphasis on costing and analysis of production relating to the fisheries industry; preparation of budgets for production; sales and variance analysis; product profitability; expenses reports, etc. Applicants should be members of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, with considerable commercial experience in food production, preferably in the fisheries industry, and be competent to implement an IBM accounting system. Knowledge of Spanish an advantage; short course available. Appointment for 2 years.

Salary according to qualifications and experience plus a variable tax-free overseas allowance in range £565-£1,490 p.a.

Jordan

Water Supply and Sewerage Engineer

With the Amman Water and Sewerage Board to be a member of a management team involved in extending and improving the City's water and sewerage systems. Applicants, aged 35-50, must be MICE and preferably also MICE with experience in design, construction, operation and maintenance of sewerage and sewerage disposal systems in municipal undertakings. Appointment for 2 years.

Salary according to qualifications and experience plus a variable tax-free overseas allowance in range £790-£2,345 p.a.

St. Lucia

Planner (Urban Transport)

To be a member of a team responsible for the preparation of a Town Centre structure plan for Castries with detailed proposals for St. John's area, and advise and assist the Town and Country Planning Department with relative development projects. Applicants should be science or engineering graduates with at least 5 years' relevant experience in the field of urban transport. Appointment for 3-4 months. Salary according to qualifications and experience.

Other benefits, for assignments of 1 year or more, include free family passages, paid leave, children's education allowances and free accommodation and medical attention. Superannuation rights will be safeguarded and all emoluments are paid by the British Government. Applicants should be citizens of the United Kingdom.

For full details and an application form please apply indicating past concerned and giving brief details of age, qualifications and experience to:

Appointments Officer

Ministry of Overseas Development

Room 301, Eleand House
Stag Place, LONDON SW1E 5NH



Council for Scientific and Industrial Research South Africa

Corrosion Research

The National Chemical Research Laboratory invites applications for permanent appointments or post-doctoral fellowships in the field of corrosion research. Preference will be given to applicants with a sound postgraduate electrochemical background and a basic knowledge of either corrosion or metallurgy.

Research projects in the following fields are either already under way or envisaged:-

1. Fundamental electrochemical studies of the catalysis, by dissolved substances, of the hydrogen evolution reaction.
2. In situ study of film growth on metal surfaces in aqueous solutions.
3. Development of passivating films for the protection of certain metals.
4. Underground corrosion of metals by alternating currents.

Fellowships are tenable for two years, and will amount to R6 200 per annum plus a travel allowance.

The commencing salary for permanent posts will vary between R4 380 and R6 540, depending on qualifications and experience. Exchange rate: £1 = R1.80 approx.

Application forms may be obtained from the Office of the Scientific Counsellor, Chichester House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HE. Telephone 01-242 8641.

SAUDIA ARABIA

Vacancies exist in the following fields for ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEERS, AREA MANAGERS and PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS

These posts offer attractive TAX FREE SALARIES and EXCELLENT FRINGE BENEFITS. Please write with full details of experience (quoting Ref. No. 599) to:-

HALMER OVERSEAS PERSONNEL,
209 ILFORD LANE,
ILFORD, ESSEX, ENGLAND.
or phone 01-553 1626.

The Commission of the European Communities.

Administrative Assistants

- Accounting, Public Finance, Supply;
- Simple statistical calculations;
- Application of the rules of administrative management;
- Centralised and decentralised filing systems and library.

The Commission is organising an open competition on the basis of tests to draw up a reserve list of Administrative Assistants for the above activities.

The positions will be based in BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG or any other centre of Commission activity.

Candidates, aged from 20 to 30 years, must have:

- completed a course of secondary education and have received a certificate;
- at least one year's practical experience in one or more of the above activities;
- a thorough knowledge of one of the languages of the Communities (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian) and a satisfactory knowledge of another of these languages.

University graduates are not eligible to apply.

Basic annual starting salary from £2360 to £2800

Full details and the OBLIGATORY OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM are contained in the Official Journal of the European Communities No. C225, dated 30th SEPTEMBER 1975, which can be obtained after 3rd OCTOBER 1975 from:

1. H.M. Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London S.E.1 at a price of 21p. Please give number of the Journal.
2. E.E.C. Information Office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.
3. Commission of European Communities, Recruiting, Appointments, Promotions Division, 200 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels (Belgium).

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 7th November 1975.

BERMUDA

Two opportunities exist for:

LITIGATION LEGAL EXECUTIVE

with several years' experience, who will be capable of co-ordinating the work of a busy Department. Salary will be in the region of £6,000 p.a.

CONVEYANCING LEGAL EXECUTIVE

who must be a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives or possess an equivalent qualification. Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of conveyancing procedure and practice with a minimum of five years' practical experience in a common law jurisdiction. Additional experience in dealing with probate matters is a preferred, but not essential, requirement. Salary in the region of £6,000 p.a.

Interviews will be conducted in London on October 25th, 1975.

Please reply, before October 17th, giving full details of qualifications, experience and marital status to:

The General Manager,
APLEY SPURLING & KEMPE,
c/o M. A. Fay,
PA Management Consultants Ltd.,
Rotherham House, Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EE.

MANAGER—ENGINEERING COMPANY SAUDI ARABIA

We are setting up a company in Saudi Arabia which will be engaged on maintenance work on refineries, cement works, chemical plants and the like.

We employ platers, welders, pipe fitters, mechanical fitters, etc.

We require a man capable of managing such an operation in its entirety.

Terms and conditions of employment will be negotiable according to experience, ability and, above all, results obtained.

Please reply to Box 0889 S, The Times.

TRANSFORMER DESIGN ENGINEER

TYREE-POWER CONSTRUCTION LIMITED, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Tyree-Power Construction Limited, the largest manufacturer of power, distribution and specialty transformers in New Zealand, are seeking a man to join a team of engineers working on the design and development of transformers up to 40 MVA and 68KV, both for the local and export market.

Applicants should possess a degree or HNC in electrical engineering and should have experience in transformer design and manufacture. A knowledge of impulse testing and analysis would be an advantage.

Generous salary and conditions of employment will be offered to the right man.

APPLICATIONS:

Full details, including education, training, qualifications, experience, age and marital status to:-

CHIEF ENGINEER,
TYREE-POWER CONSTRUCTION LIMITED,
P.O. BOX 15-067,
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

APPOINTMENTS VACANT
also on page 27

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(continued on page 31)

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	£850	£752
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	£675	£574
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